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Back Cover – Gray Kingbird, Miller Field, *Richmond*, 22 Sep 2022, © Maya Shikhman.

WHAT'S IT GONNA BE? PREDICTING THE NEXT NEW ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF NEW YORK—v. 6.0

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This article was initially going to be solely dedicated to Shane Blodgett. Shane was a pillar of the New York birding community, and in addition to being a familiar figure for those around Brooklyn and New York City where he spent most of his time, he was also known throughout the entire state as a world class human being. Not only was he an extremely sharp birder with a long rap sheet of rarity finds, he also spent countless hours helping other people see rare birds in downstate New York. He passed away after a battle with cancer, shortly after these votes were compiled, and opted not to take part in this iteration, though he always liked the exercise of predicting when and where birds could show up (and then trying to find them), and he participated in the previous two polls with gusto. In July 2023, Tom Johnson, who did take part in this iteration, died suddenly, sending shockwaves and deep sorrow through the birding community and beyond. Tom set his roots in New York ornithology as a Cornell undergrad and grew over the next decade and a half into an exemplary human being and a birding giant, figuratively and literally, and a wonderful one-of-a-kind friend. Words cannot do justice to who he was and his impact on birding over his all-too-short 35 years on this planet. His death changed so much in our community, including suspending for a time the editorial process for this article. We offer it here in the spirit of curiosity and community that Shane and Tom both modeled.

"The world is changed. I feel it in the water. I feel it in the earth. I smell it in the air." –Galadriel, *Lord of the Rings*

Galadriel wasn't talking about our planet today, but she certainly could have been. Where the changed world is perhaps most evident is in nature, and this is one of the reasons that birding has a never-ending appeal. As things change, birds adapt in both behavior and distribution, and there are forever new layers to peel back, and new things to discover and contemplate.

Eight years ago, I asked a group of New York State (NYS) birders which ten bird species that hadn't yet occurred in NYS were the most likely to be the next additions to the state bird list. Here we are, eight years and fourteen additional species on, to discuss the results with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, as well as to try our hands at prognostication once more.

There are many factors at play in new species being added to the New York State list, and we'll discuss these before we dive into the post-mortem of the 2015 exercise (Gochfeld 2016; *Kingbird* 66 (1): 2-12) and reveal the new 2022

predictions. Much has been written about bird vagrancy (including entire books on the subject), and the many, many contributing factors, so I'll just touch on some of the basics here. New York State has seen vagrants from Asia, South America, Europe, and even potentially Africa, so there are a bevy of factors that can precede the appearance of a "Mega."

Migration and weather—Almost all the wayward wanderers to the state are migrants, and most are long-distance migrants. Birds have internal compasses, which take their cues from the Earth's magnetic field, the stars, day length, and more. If a long-distance migrant, primed to fly thousands of miles, orients to any of these incorrectly, they may set off in the wrong direction and go on an adventure that takes them far from the rest of their species. Just one of these missteps in navigation on its own can take them far out of their way, but once a migrant has taken off and is en route, a second factor has the potential to come into play: weather. Even when a bird's internal compass is correct, it may be subject to the whims of our weather. A Franklin's Gull, migrating a mile or more above the ground, may find hurricane force winds part of the way into its multi-day flight, and if it's too tired to fight against them, or not experienced enough to evade the winds, it may find itself on the wrong continent. Indeed, these high flying long distance champions have been seen in nearly every corner of the world, though 99.9% of the population successfully navigates from the Great Plains to southern South America.

Considering the above, it's easy to conceptualize why long-distance migrants are always at play for vagrancy, but there are a couple of other factors (types of vagrancy) that also figure prominently in New York's avian landscape.

Changing habitats and landscapes—Birds that may seem lost from our vantage point may not be so lost after all. Most birds are habitat specialists in at least a broad sense, adapted to live in one of forest, field, wetland, desert, ocean, etc. As habitats change, their species must adapt, either by expanding habitat preferences in order to stay put, or by moving in active search of its preferred context. In recent decades, this has been most pronounced with waterbirds who are reliant on freshwater wetlands. When these wetlands disappear, for instance during droughts, the birds that rely on them, such as herons, waterfowl, and shorebirds, are forced to re-locate. Large scale droughts are major drivers of bird displacement, and these have been more frequent, more extreme, and longer as climate change has accelerated. Over the past half decade, there has been a huge (exponential in the latter two cases) increase in records of wader species such as Wood Stork, Limpkin, and Roseate Spoonbill in our region, and it is no doubt tied to warming temperatures, as well as dryer conditions to the south. These are still currently considered out-of-range birds, but how much longer will it be until we accept them as expected and belonging here? Zooming out to the global scale, Ruddy Shelduck has a well-illustrated pattern of long-distance vagrancy, likely as a result of being both a migrant as well as a bird reliant on seasonal wetlands in regions where the effects of climate change are particularly acute. Meanwhile,

entire communities of birds move vast distances around the Australian continent year-to-year in response to rainfall and droughts, with birds responding astonishingly quickly to changing water conditions.

The ocean is perhaps the only other widespread habitat that is changing as (or more) dramatically and quickly than ephemeral wetland habitats. With sea temperature increases and ocean current changes, entire ocean ecosystems are changing and moving around, and so the seabirds that spend most of their lives following their food web are moving to adapt. The explosion of "vagrant" boobies on both coasts of North America is a great example of this. Brown Booby was an exceptional rarity in New York State waters just a decade ago. Now they are expected in small numbers each summer, seen both from shore and from boats off of Long Island, as well as wandering inland to reservoirs and lakes. Meanwhile, the upper latitudes of our planet, which used to be covered by ice year round, are now ice free for large periods of the year, allowing saltwater-dependent birds to cover much greater "ground" in their wanderings. The Northwest Passage, once the domain only of arctic explorers, is now open for much of the summer, and commercial and tourist boats have begun to ply these waters, along with birds, whales, and even plankton (one species thought to have been absent from the Atlantic Ocean for 800,000 years has appeared and become more common there in recent years, and the open Northwest Passage is hypothesized to be the reason).

Climate change is the largest driver of habitat change these days, but direct alteration of habitat by humans also can play (and has played) a role in changes in species distribution. Just take the population contraction of birds like Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, and Upland Sandpiper, in the northeast. Much of the prior century's farmland and pasture has gone fallow over the last half century or more, turning into forest unsuitable for open country birds, while development of urban areas has likewise removed more natural habitat for grassland birds. This open country habitat had been furnished to the sparrows, Bobolinks and the like because humans had brought civilization to the land and cut the forest to install the farmland. In this case the spread of human settlement helped some species while hurting others. In the case of most urban development, however, there tends to be plenty of losers, and not many winners, on the native bird front.

More generally, terrestrial ecological communities are experiencing rapidly advancing plant and insect phenology, due to warming. Budding, leafout, and peak insect abundances occur earlier in the season, changing the optimal dates for migratory arrival and breeding for untold numbers of species.

Thus, in addition to responding passively to weather events, many birds are also dispersing actively, sometimes even exploiting weather events to explore places far out of their ordinary ranges. The concept of vagrancy as active dispersal is supported by the observations that certain species are especially prone to vagrancy (for instance, Laughing Gulls migrate much shorter distances than closely related Franklin's Gulls, but are likewise champion global vagrants), and that species whose populations are expanding at a given time are especially prone to vagrancy. It has been argued that the latter correlation is much stronger than

expected just on the basis of increased numbers of individuals available to misorient.

Detection probability—Okay, so the above factors have conspired to bring a bird which has never before been recorded in New York State to show up within the friendly confines of our borders – Great! This happens every year, but it doesn't automatically mean that that bird's species makes it onto the state list. First, someone has to see it. Rarities that show up in well-known birding hotspots are more likely to be seen, especially if those hotspots are easily birdable. Large tracts of habitat are harder to cover thoroughly, and habitats that are difficult to navigate or have restrictions on access, like marshes (both fresh and salt water), grassland, and large bodies of water are even less adequately covered. Places with the highest ratios of human population-to-available bird habitat (I'm looking at you, New York City) are also more likely to be well covered. Rural areas with fewer people and more habitat are, obviously, less well covered.

The second step on the path to the state list is that the finder needs to realize that the bird is of interest. With some flashy, distinctive birds this is relatively straightforward (even a non-birder would lose their shit over a male Painted Bunting), but an out-of-range *Empidonax* flycatcher could be seen by dozens of birders without being flagged as a rarity. The amount of time a bird hangs out in an area also has a strong bearing on its detection as a rarity. How many hummingbirds from the west or deep south have given birders a five second view as they shoot between one mistaken destination and the next? We'll never know.

The third and final step is that the bird needs to be documented well enough for it to be accepted into the scientific record as fact. For an obvious bird that is easy to identify and photograph (think Crested Caracara and Roseate Spoonbill, for instance), this step is not a huge hurdle. On the other end of the scale, the ID of the state's first documented Pacific-slope Flycatcher was confirmed after many, many experienced birders had seen it, when the results finally came back of the DNA test of its poop. Most birds fall between these two extremes in terms of ease of documentation, but the spectrum is broad.

Staying with the theme of changing times, it used to be that almost the only way a living bird (specimens found dead aside) could be added to the state list was if a birder found it (or hunter shot it), but that is no longer the case. The dramatic proliferation (and improvement) of cameras combined with the interconnection of the modern world has meant that rarities regularly come to light from people outside the birding community, often from people who don't consider themselves birders at all. Cell phone pictures of out-of-place birds are quickly passed around to friends and acquaintances until they find their way to a birder or one of the many bird-related groups on social media (notably Facebook and Reddit), and next thing you know the local birding world is in a tizzy about a rare bird.

There is much more depth and nuance to why and when vagrants appear in the state but that level of detail is beyond the scope of this article, and so without further ado, let's get to the predictions!

ASSESSMENT OF THE 2015 PREDICTIONS

With all of the foregoing in mind, let's look at how the 2015 predictions fared (30 ballots).

Below is a chronological list of the species added to the official New York State bird list between the publication of the 2015 article (Mar 2016 KB 66.1), and the closing of the 2022 round of voting. Photos of all these species are presented in the Photo Gallery. For all species that were among the top 10 vote-getters in 2015, the summary article published additional brief predictions for the best time and place to find these potential new additions. For the three species that made the top 10 predictions and that ended up occurring, we'll compare the prediction and outcome.

Bronzed Cowbird ***Molothrus aeneus*** **21 October 2015,** ***Saint Lawrence***
59th place in 2015, 54th place in 2010.
This bird appeared at a feeder in the far northern corner of the state, about as far from the species' normal range as it could get while still being in New York (KB 66: 64). This species has undergone a steady expansion in the south of the US, from Florida to Arizona, but records north of that are still severely lacking. In the northeast there is a Maine record, a couple of Nova Scotia records, and this New York record. The next closest record is on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.
2015: 1 list (9th place) SSM

Pacific-slope Flycatcher ***Empidonax difficilis*** **18 November 2015,** ***New York***
NO PRIOR VOTES.
The lack of votes for this species likely reflects the difficulty of definitive ID to "species" in the "Western Flycatcher" complex, as well as the fact that voters interested in a new *Empidonax* flycatcher had several plausible options to choose from, and were unlikely to pick all of them. Its sister taxon, Cordilleran Flycatcher, was tied for 67th place in 2010, but otherwise all other western *Empidonax* performed much better in voting. Ironically, this taxon has now occurred twice, in addition to the "Western" Flycatcher banded at the Fire Island Lighthouse in Fall 1995, which was thought to be a Cordilleran (Buckley and Mitra 2003; *North American Birds* 57: 292-304), whereas the two higher vote-getting *Empidonax* (Gray and Dusky Flycatchers) have not yet been documented in New York. The first bird aligned with Pacific-slope occurred in Central Park, and its ID was supported by a recorded vocalization, and perhaps more importantly, DNA extracted from a fecal sample (KB 67: 86-87). Birding at its absolute finest. Another likely Pacific-slope was found within New York City (NYC) limits, in Kissena Park, Queens in 2020, with recorded vocalizations. Even so, all three individuals will soon be reflected on the NYS checklist as simply "Western Flycatcher," since the species has been re-lumped with Cordilleran Flycatcher by the North American Classification Committee (NACC) as of summer 2023.

Garganey ***Spatula querquedula*** **5 June 2016,** ***Seneca***
13th place in 2015, 38th in 2010.
Waterfowl have been getting more attention as rarities in recent years as they have shed, rightly or wrongly, some of the stigma of having "potential escapee" attached to each occurrence of a vagrant duck or goose. This bird at Montezuma was the first accepted by the NYS Avian Records Committee (KB 67: 82-83), but a 1993 record from Genesee County was similar in context (KB 45: 75), and they join many records from around the Northeast US and Canada.
2015: 7 lists (1st place, 2nd, 5th, 7th (2), 8th, 9th) TLe, PAB, PLe, TRe, AFa, JDC, SSi

Clark's Grebe ***Aechmorphorus clarkii*** **22 February 2017,** ***Oswego***
NO VOTES in 2015, 20th place in 2010.
This got a little bit of love in the 2010 voting, but was completely absent from top ten lists in 2015. This bird's vocalizations were somewhat equivocal between Clark's Grebe and its close congener Western Grebe, but physically it looked like a slam-dunk Clark's Grebe without any outward signs of hybridization (KB 71: 103-104).

Inca Dove ***Columbina inca*** **4 December 2017,** ***Chautauqua***
58th place in 2015, 0 votes in 2010.
This was a bird coming to a private feeder and kept under wraps while present due to the homeowner preferring not to have strangers flocking to their yard (KB 68: 106).
2015: 1 list (9th place) AGu

Common Greenshank ***Tringa nebularia*** **5 May 2019,** ***Suffolk***
54th place in 2015, T-64th in 2010.
This ended a one-and-a-half year drought of state firsts, and was one of the bigger surprises of the recent additions (KB 69: 202-205). While it wasn't completely unprecedented for the East Coast of North America, there were a scant few prior records.
2015: 1 list (7th place) DFu

Tropical Kingbird ***Tyrannus melancholicus*** **27 October 2020,** ***Westchester***
3rd place in 2015, 3rd in 2010.
One of the heavy favorites, there was a moment in 2014 when some thought this species had finally been achieved for the list—but when Manhattan's yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* was finally heard vocalizing, it surprisingly turned out to be a Couch's Kingbird (KB 65: 163-164). After that this prediction still took a few years after voting to come to fruition, but once it hit, it hit! Following the first, at Dobbs Ferry, Westchester (KB 71: 84), records followed in fall 2021 in Richmond County (kb 72: 2-8) and fall 2022 in Queens County (this issue, pp. 153-162), as well as a likely summer 2023 record. This pattern reflects relatively well the

predicted circumstances of eventual occurrence, which were "between mid-October and mid-November in Region 10."
2015: 17 lists (1st place (2 lists), 2nd (5), 3rd (3), etc.)

Ferruginous Hawk ***Buteo regalis*** **16 January 2021,** ***Orange***
25th place in 2015, 35th in 2010.
The biggest (and some would say best) of the North American *Buteos*, there are still only a few records of this species in East Coast states, most being away from the coast as this one was. It was found during a raptor survey of the well-known winter raptor paradise that is the Black Dirt Region, and hung out for much of the rest of the winter (71: 185).
2015: 4 lists (6th place (2 lists),10th (2))

Tundra Bean-Goose ***Anser serrirostris*** **12 March 2021,** ***Rensselaer***
53rd place in 2015, 27th ("Bean Goose") in 2010.
This one was a species that was basically a Hail Mary on a couple of lists in 2015, but would have been ranked higher by the time it showed up in the state due to some recent occurrences in Eastern North America. It stayed around for just a couple of days, and became unreliable almost as soon as the word got out, though those who were very quick on the draw were able to race up and see it (KB 71: 291).
2015: 1 list (6th place) BKu

Gray-breasted Martin ***Progne chalybea*** **1 April 2021,** ***Kings***
NO VOTES.
There always seems to be at least one so far out of left field that it's actually out of the stadium. This was undoubtedly New York State's biggest rarity stunner of the past decade. For macro context, it was only the third documented record in United States history, with the prior two being Texas specimen records from…get this…the century before last (less than 30 years after the Civil War). Thankfully, this modern individual stuck around for three more days after its April Fools Day discovery, allowing for copious photo and video documentation, and even a couple of audio recordings, from some of the multi-hundred birders that twitched their way to Prospect Park in the heart of Brooklyn over the course of the bird's 75-hour stay (KB 71: 310).

Violet-green Swallow ***Tachycineta thalassina*** **22 April 2021,** ***Saratoga***
2nd place in 2015, 10th in 2010.
Another long-awaited one, in the 2015 voting it moved up to second likeliest to occur, after being in tenth position in 2010. In the 2015 discussion of where to look for this species, one of the contexts cited was "spring swallow aggregations on insect-rich ponds across the state," and that guess did indeed come true. This was long-awaited, yet unsatisfying for those birders that would have liked to chase it, since it was a one-day wonder identified from photos distributed later in the day, and attempts to relocate it were unsuccessful (KB 71: 291).

2015: 19 lists (1st place (2 lists), 2nd (2), 3rd (4), etc.)

Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus* 13 September 2021, *Oswego*
7th place in 2015, 17th in 2010.
The prognostication for 2015's #7 was that it would occur in May or June at shorebird habitat along Lake Erie or Lake Ontario. The location prediction was dead-on, but instead of a spring occurrence, this one appeared in September (KB: 72: 59). The date should perhaps not have been so surprising, as the lone Connecticut record was an October bird.
2015: 13 lists (1st place (1 list), 2nd (3), 3rd (4), etc.)

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* 2 April 2022, *Kings*
22nd place in 2015, 0 votes in 2010.
This was 22nd during the last round of voting, but if there had been another polling a few years later, it would potentially have been a top ten selection, since multiple individuals had almost certainly flown through the state to end up in New England and Nova Scotia, with individuals even migrating south past Connecticut hawkwatches, and then being seen again in Cape May (in two different years!) without being detected in New York in between. Since the species is so mobile, and can be mistaken for the widespread Turkey Vulture at a glance, it takes some luck and awareness to intercept a wanderer as it passes through, and that's just what happened when it was seen for a fairly short time winging its way over Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery, shocking a few lucky birders who happened to be birding the cemetery that day, and then disappearing as it continued on its way (KB 72: 315).
2015: 3 lists (4th place (2), 6th (1)) PAB, CFi, JPa

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* 5 April 2022, *Suffolk*
47th place in 2015, T-64th 2010.
The most recent pre-voting addition to the state list barely made the top 50 in the 2015 voting, and it was an admirable find and ID given the similarity of this species to both American Black Duck and the abundant Mallard x American Black Duck hybrids that are found throughout Long Island. This bird stuck around for a long time (intermittently over the course of at least a year as of this writing), which was useful to twitchers, as for many folks it took several tries to see it in its heavily vegetated pond of choice (KB: 72: 315).
2015: 2 lists (7th ,10th place) TLe, TRe

****Special mention—Graylag Goose *Anser anser* 30 January 2018**
31st place in 2015, 0 votes 2010.
This species has yet to be added to the New York State list, but a waterfowl hunter apparently took one of these on Long Island during the 2018 hunting season (KB 68: 163). Unfortunately, just a couple of photos were submitted to NYSARC, and without more context the committee did not accept the record when first submitted. This species has occurred in recent years in New England (including

in neighboring Connecticut and Rhode Island) and the Maritimes, and its population continues to grow and expand in Northwestern Europe.
2015: 3 lists (4th place (1), 10th (2)) DGo, PAB, SSi

METHODS

As in 2015, predictions were sought from a large set of birders from across New York State, plus several experts who don't currently live in New York, but have a strong knowledge of the distributions of the species that could show up (total of 48 contributors). As was done in 2015 and 2010 (*Kingbird* 60 (4): 301-310), species were ranked by both overall popularity (the number of lists featuring each species) and intensity of preference (the sum of ranks assigned to each species). The product of these two numbers yields an index that closely tracks both popularity and preference; its advantage is that it compensates for situations where the other two measures are strongly at odds with each other, such as when a species is included on many lists but always at low rank, or on just a single list but at very high rank. Thus a species selected by three contributors at low ranks of 2, 1, and 1 would achieve an index of 12 and would not be eclipsed by a species ranked highly at 9 by a single contributor. The index also breaks many of the ties that result from the other metrics, applied individually.

Contributors: Meryl Sue Ackley, Seth Ausubel, Joachim Bertrands, Shawn Billerman, Brent Bomkamp, Jen Brumfield, P. A. Buckley, Peter Burke, Thomas W. Burke, Gary Chapin, Michael Cooper, Shannon Curley, Willie D'Anna, Todd Day, Joseph DiCostanzo, Jacob Drucker, Max Epstein, Andrew Farnsworth, Shawneen Finnegan, Brendan Fogarty, Karen Fung, Douglas Futuyma, Doug Gochfeld, Robert Gochfeld, Julian Hough, Marshall Iliff, Tom Johnson, Paul Lehman, Tony Leukering, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Ryan Mandelbaum, Michael McBrien, Shaibal S. Mitra, Mary Normandia, Daisy Paul, Tripper Paul, Jose Ramirez-Garofolo, Melissa Roach, Derek H. Rogers, Donna Schulman, Sean Sime, Taylor Sturm, Richard R. Veit, Angus Wilson, Heather Wolf, Mike Yuan, Ryan Zucker.

Additional initials appearing in the 2015 recap refer to: Corey Finger, Andy Guthrie, Bob Kurtz, Jim Pawlicki, and Tom Reed.

THE NEW PREDICTIONS

The top vote-getters for 2022 were a combination of yet-to-be-fulfilled holdovers from the tops of the previous two lists as well as some newcomers that have shot up the charts due to recent changes in distribution and/or perception of their rarity. The top 15 species are discussed in detail here and presented with the votes of all contributors in Table 1. Remaining species receiving votes are presented in Table 2. As described above, they are ranked by a combination of the number of votes received and the sum of the scores.

1. Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* (2015 unranked, 2010 T-73rd (last place))
The voting took place as the eastern US was in the midst of an unprecedented explosion of Limpkins north of their normal southeastern range, so it was no surprise that it garnered so many votes, since it seemed like it could appear any day. Thankfully, it had the decency to hold off on being found in New York until after all the round's votes were in.

When and where: It's already occurred, so we can't give readers the benefit of a true prediction, but it likely would have read "Summertime anywhere in the state, likely in the interior and western part." The date would have been wrong, but it made sense that it showed up closer to all of the recent Midwest US records. The Lewiston (Niagara County) record in November 2022 was astonishing more for the time of year and the microhabitat (not a big marshland or freshwater pond), but the place the bird had settled into had an abundance of invasive apple snails that the Limpkin was feasting on. A rehabber eventually picked up the bird in mid-November, and transported it to the south, since it was unlikely to survive the impending freezing weather at Niagara Falls. See *Kingbird* 73 (1): 7-14.

2. European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (2015 5th place, 2010 9th)
This species has been inching up in the standings as occurrences continue to straddle the state, with two New Jersey records and singles in Delaware, Massachusetts, and Maine. It has now occurred in the region in two different seasons: northbound migration in April (as is the typical pattern in Newfoundland), and July through October, presumably heading south. This hints at the potential for multiple modes of vagrancy.

When and where: July to October in Long Island or a rich agricultural area or turf farm farther upstate.

3. Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* (2015 T-59th (last place))
This one has come close, occurring just down the parkway in Cape May and at Island Beach State Park, as well as several times in deep water off the shelf edge off Massachusetts. This species is perhaps here largely as a result of the ocean changes mentioned in the habitat section of the introduction, though increased coverage of pelagic waters and increased awareness of the possibilities out there have also played a role.

When and where: It's uncertain whether this will be first seen in New York waters from a boat (either a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship, a fishing boat, or a dedicated birding pelagic trip) or from shore around one of the better seawatching spots or productive inlets (Montauk, Shinnecock, Fire Island, Jones Inlet, Rockaway Inlet). It's more likely in deep water off the shelf edge, but there is much, much more coverage from shore, which evens the probabilities out a bit. Given the trends in water temperatures in recent years, a late-June to September date range is definitely the prime time.

4. Black-chinned Hummingbird ***Archilochus alexandri*** **(2015 1st place, 2010 4th)**

Ah yes, the ever-predicted western analog to our Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Many comments that came with the lists this year essentially just stated "band more hummingbirds," when it came to predictions of this species. It hasn't placed outside the top 4 in any of the recent Next 10 guessing games.

When and where: Hummingbird feeder or large tract of late-blooming (salvia) flowers anywhere in the state in November or December. See Postscript.

5. Allen's Hummingbird ***Selasphorus sasin*** **(2015 4th place, 2010 2nd)**

Almost a repeat of the prior species, though perhaps even more difficult to identify with certainty when it's not in-hand. Plenty of Rufous Hummingbirds, its closest relative, show up in the state, and the range of Allen's may be expanding quickly (and they are also now…gulp…hybridizing with Rufous Hummingbirds).

When and where: Hummingbird feeder or large tract of late-blooming (salvia) flowers anywhere in the state in November or December.

6. Heermann's Gull ***Larus heermanni*** **(unranked previously)**

Like Limpkin, this species was in the midst of an unprecedented run of records along the east coast shortly before and during the voting, with multiple birds being seen roving the sea shore between Florida and Massachusetts, and so almost certainly (à la Zone-tailed Hawk) passing through New York State (or at least its closest-point-of-land waters) undetected. Many of these votes were in large part anticipating that one of these two or more known individuals would wander into the state sooner or later.

When and where: It took until May 2023 to occur, and it was not in the location that would have been predicted, which would have been an ocean-facing beach on Long Island. It may not have even been one of the wandering individuals people had in mind. This one was likely the bird that had been seen for a couple of days along the Lake Erie shoreline in Ohio a month prior to being spotted at Sodus Bay, NY. Before this occurrence, the prediction here would definitely have been along the south shore of Long Island and around New York Bay.

7. Yellow-green Vireo ***Vireo flavoviridis*** **(unranked previously)**

There have been six records in the Northeast US (five since 2018, the other in 2011), all coastal. Of those, four were found in mist nets as part of banding operations in the autumn. This species has been undergoing a vagrancy boom over the past decade, but that has mostly manifested on the west coast. In the east, this species is more likely to slide under the radar amongst the abundant look-alike Red-eyed Vireos, so this is one that will be the reward of those who don't take their fall vireos for granted. There are not many banding stations operating on Long Island, so this one may be up to the astute field observer or, perish the thought, to those examining other peoples' photos after the fact.

When and where: Most likely to be detected on the south shore of Long Island in September or October, though an April to May appearance should not

be ruled out. If there were regular bird banding projects along the coast it would likely expedite the detection of this potentially skulky Red-eyed Vireo lookalike which could bury itself in dense, hard-to-access coastal scrub.

8. Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow* (2015 8th place, 2010 49th)
This one, like several pelagics, had been climbing the ranks, and had for the second time in a row cracked the top 10 just before last October's magical pelagic trip where this rarest of rare Atlantic *Pterodromas* graced a boat full of birders with its presence.

When and where: This occurred exactly as it would have been predicted, on one of the overnight pelagic birding trips off Long Island, of which Brooklyn has been the only port in recent years.

9. Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis* (2015 10th place)
This species lives year round just across New York Bay from New York City (NYC). The species' range has been inching northward over the past couple of decades, and with it a hybrid zone between Carolina and Black-capped. Any putative Carolina Chickadee would have to be closely scrutinized (both visually and audially) to rule out a hybrid.

When and where: People have prognosticated Staten Island for this species for a long while, but it might make more sense reaching the state northwest of there, where it wouldn't have to fly across a river towards a large metropolis. No dates seem any more likely than others, but perhaps a post-breeding dispersal in the second half of the summer or autumn would make the most sense. Either that or the northern edge of the range continues its very slow march northward and it eventually gets to Rockland or Orange Counties. Bird feeders in the southern and western part of Staten Island would perhaps be the best bet for those holding out hope for an appearance from the most proximal population.

10. Mexican Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* (2015 17th place, 2010 5th)
This species has stayed pretty consistent in the voting over the past decade plus. It's big advantage over the other most likely vagrant hummingbirds is just that: it's big. It's also patterned very differently than any other hummingbirds, so it should be obvious to any hummingbird feeder watcher. There are at least eight records from the mid-Atlantic north, one of which was merely 10 miles from NYC (in New Jersey), and another which was only ~20 miles from Dutchess County (in Connecticut), so we are well and truly primed for this one.

When and where: Another hummingbird feeder target, though this one is most likely to occur between August and October. They usually only stick to feeders in this region for between one and three days. This combined with the fact that most hummingbird feeders are at private homes means it's possible that not many people would get to lay eyes on one that did show up. There is a spray of records through the Appalachians, so if you live near that range and have hummingbird feeders out in the summer, keep an eye out for a big and fancy one!

11. Prairie Falcon ***Falco mexicanus*** **(2015 11th place, 2010 38th)**
This massive falcon of open country has been recorded in winter in Vermont (just over the border from New York), Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C., and there are several records from southern Ontario. There are also lots and lots of records from the Midwest.

When and where: Look for this to set up shop in a vast grassland area, perhaps with a ready supply of waterfowl, in upstate or western New York. Montezuma NWR or other large waterfowl concentration points (several WMAs fit the bill), or vast agricultural areas (the Black Dirt Region qualifies if you want a closer-to-downstate option) seem like perfect places for a Prairie Falcon to spend a month or two during the coldest season.

12. White Wagtail ***Motacilla alba*** **(2015 29th place, 2010 60th)**
There was a tantalizing report of one from Brooklyn in the early 1990s, but given that it was only seen in flight, and that not all observers on site agreed on the ID, it will forever be relegated to the halls of uncertainty. That said, the species is a long distance migrant, has a huge Old World distribution (involving many taxa), and is common throughout that range, so the source population is a great plus-factory for vagrancy. There are quite a few April records surrounding our latitude, apparently of birds that had already been wintering on the continent and were making their way north to the American arctic and subarctic to set up territories away from the prying eyes and ears of people. There are also some October records, and farther south there are some winter records.

When and where: It's tempting to say any time and anywhere given its abundance in the Old World, but October-April would be the best pick for timing, and water's edge the most likely habitat. It should either be along coastal Long Island or the southern Lake Ontario shore, thought the Hudson and St. Lawrence Rivers shouldn't be ruled out either. Check your breakwalls, jetties, and rocky or seaweed-strewn beaches!

13. Brown Noddy ***Anous stolidus*** **(2015 23rd place, 2010 24th)**
There is scant documentation of this species' occurrence in the Northeast. Even in the Gulf Stream off North Carolina, where there has been regular dedicated birding pelagic coverage for the past three decades, there are only a handful of records. This is perhaps one that has the benefit of association with other tropical waterbirds which occur in the region regularly during storms. Care must be taken to eliminate juvenile Sooty Tern, and to account for poor lighting when people think they see an all dark tern that they suspect to be a noddy.

When and where: This one would most likely be a storm-transported species to New York coastal waters, and looking for it (safely) after the passage of a hurricane that comes directly from the Caribbean is the best bet. Lucking into one in very warm waters far off shore also may be getting more likely by the year, as sea surface temperatures in the north Atlantic skyrocket.

14. Steller's Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus* (unranked previously)
Make no mistake, this is a vote for an individual rather than a species. Another result of recent circumstances, these votes were for the Steller's Sea-Eagle that has taken up residence in the Maritimes (between Newfoundland and Labrador in the summers) and farther south (regularly as far south as Maine in the winter, and even down to Massachusetts for a few days), and seems to be in Northeastern North America to stay.

When and where: The deepest of winter is when New York's hopes for this bird should be highest, and if judging by its winter habitat preferences so far, the options seem to be large systems of reservoirs (à la the NYC reservoirs in Putnam and Westchester Counties), or coastal areas and large rivers with trees or rocky coasts and outcrops. The Hudson River seems to fit the bill well, especially in cold years with lots of ice in the river. Coastal Long Island is dominated by salt marsh on the south shore, so a Long Islander's hope for the bird might best lie on the north shore, along the Long Island Sound.

15. Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (2015 6th place, 2010 33rd place)
Several records in Massachusetts waters, and regular in waters off Nova Scotia.

When and where: This one will need photos due to its similarity to other species of small shearwaters, so it's most likely to be seen on either an organized birding pelagic trip or a NOAA research vessel where birders are prepared and alert. The time window to target for them is August or September.

The Next 5 breeders—The state breeding bird list is augmented at a much slower pace than the overall bird list is, for plenty of good reasons. Breeders are most likely to appear in one of two ways: a breeding range expands to include New York, or a new habitat opportunity opens up. Since both of these factors usually take place gradually over many years, we shouldn't expect a hot and heavy incursion of breeders. As such, not many breeders hit, and only five are asked for. Of the thirty Next 10 respondents, only ten also submitted a list of predicted breeders in 2015, and a total of 19 species appeared on those lists. The leaders were Royal Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove (which had perhaps bred already), White-faced Ibis (speculated to have bred previously, but no conclusive evidence), Neotropic Cormorant, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Carolina Chickadee, Manx Shearwater, Brewer's Blackbird, and Kirtland's Warbler. Nearly half of these aren't recorded even annually in the state, and so are clearly being pegged as species whose breeding ranges are expanding.

The 2022 predictions look very similar to the 2010 predictions, reinforcing just how slowly this list is apt to change. 26 of the 48 participants submitted a list of breeders for this year, mentioning a total of 37 different species.

White Ibis made a huge jump to the overwhelming #1 favorite. Of the seventeen voters who listed it, 16 had it as their first or second most likely, showing a very high level of confidence from those who were on Team-WHIB. The next bunch look familiar, with **Royal Tern, Black-necked Stilt, White-faced Ibis, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Lesser**

Table 1. Predicted additions to the New York State Checklist. Contributors (see Methods for full names) ranked 10 species each.
= the number of lists featuring the species; sum = sum of ranks assigned to each species; species are ranked by # * sum.

Species	MSA	SA	JoBe	SBi	BBo	JeBr	PAB	PeBu	TWB	GC	MC	SC	WDA	TD	JDC	JDr	ME
Limpkin	9			7	6	6	10			9	10	10	8	8			10
European Golden-Plover		8	4	9	2				2	4	6	5	4			5	8
Masked Booby	6	9			8				1		4		3		9	6	7
Black-chinned Hummingbird		10		8	9	9	7	7	6		7	9	10	10	1		
Allen's Hummingbird				10	10		4		9	6			2	9		7	
Heerman's Gull	10			6			9			8	8		7			8	9
Yellow-green Vireo	8	7				3	1							7		9	4
Bermuda Petrel		3							10						10	3	5
Carolina Chickadee			9				6		5	10	1	2		1	7		
Mexican Violetear			3			10		3		7			6		2		
Prairie Falcon		6	1	4	5	4									3		
White Wagtail	1				3							6	1	6			
Brown Noddy											5				8		
Steller's Sea-Eagle				3					8								
Barolo Shearwater				1	7				3	2			5				
Brewer's Sparrow				5													
Arctic Loon						7											
Graylag Goose							8			1	9						
Black-whiskered Vireo	5				1		2									4	
Gray Flycatcher						5		9									
Glaucous-winged Gull	7					1											6
Sprague's Pipit							5										
Great-tailed Grackle								5			2	7				10	
Shiny Cowbird															6		
Gray Heron														3			
conformity	7	6	4	9	9	8	9	4	8	8	9	6	9	6	8	8	7

Table 1. Predicted additions to the New York State Checklist--contd.

Species	AFa	SF	BFo	KFu	DFu	DGo	RG	JH	MI	TJo	PLe	TLe	PJL	HLo	RM	MMcB	SSM
Limpkin		10		8					3	7		10	8	5	9	10	8
European Golden-Plover	5		8	4		7		9		8	9	5		10	3	2	9
Masked Booby		6			8	8			9	9	7				2	8	
Black-chinned Hummingbird				9					8	10			9		7	6	
Allen's Hummingbird		8		6				10	10	5	8				10	9	
Heerman's Gull		2		10					6				7	8	8		
Yellow-green Vireo	7	9	5	5		9		7	5	6	10						
Bermuda Petrel				2		10	6		7	4			3		1		
Carolina Chickadee				7	1		5						10			5	4
Mexican Violetear	4	7						1			4		5	9	5		
Prairie Falcon					5		10					6					5
White Wagtail						5		5									
Brown Noddy	9				10												
Steller's Sea-Eagle							8							6			
Barolo Shearwater	1	5															10
Brewer's Sparrow				3				8				3		2			6
Arctic Loon			9					4			3	9		1			
Graylag Goose										2					4		
Black-whiskered Vireo	6								2								
Gray Flycatcher																	7
Glaucous-winged Gull										3							
Sprague's Pipit	8				4								6				
Great-tailed Grackle												8					
Shiny Cowbird			10		2												
Gray Heron										1							
conformity	7	7	4	9	6	5	4	7	8	9	6	6	7	7	9	6	7

Table 1. Predicted additions to the New York State Checklist--contd.

Species	MN	TP	DP	JRG	MR	DHR	DS	SSi	TS	RRV	AnW	HW	MY	RZ	#	Sum	Rank
Limpkin		10	7	9	10		8	10	8		10	8	10		31	261	1
European Golden-Plover		5		6	4		10	9	9	7			6		31	192	2
Masked Booby		6	3	10	8	3		7			8				24	155	3
Black-chinned Hummingbird				7				6						10	21	165	4
Allen's Hummingbird		8	5		9	10	9								21	164	5
Heerman's Gull		9					6				9		9		18	139	6
Yellow-green Vireo		2			7									7	19	118	7
Bermuda Petrel		1			1			3	7		5		7	6	19	94	8
Carolina Chickadee							2		10			10			17	95	9
Mexican Violetear		3							3	8	4				17	84	10
Prairie Falcon	8	7	8					4						2	15	78	11
White Wagtail			9	4										1	10	41	12
Brown Noddy								2				5	3	3	8	45	13
Steller's Sea-Eagle	10										6		8		7	49	14
Barolo Shearwater						4									9	38	15
Brewer's Sparrow					6			8							8	41	16
Arctic Loon						6									7	39	17
Graylag Goose						9			4						7	37	18
Black-whiskered Vireo										3				9	8	32	19
Gray Flycatcher		4	10							5					6	40	20
Glaucous-winged Gull									5		7			5	7	34	21
Sprague's Pipit					3		1		6						7	33	22
Great-tailed Grackle											3				6	35	23
Shiny Cowbird											2		5	8	6	33	24
Gray Heron			6	8	2	2			2						7	24	25
conformity	2	10	6	5	8	5	6	8	8	4	9	3	7	9			

Table 2. More predicted additions to the New York State Checklist—v. 6.0.

Species	#	Sum	Rank	Contributors
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5	32	26	MC, WDA, RG, MI, HLo
Black-browed Albatross	5	26	27	JDC, RG, JH, TLe, DS
Lesser Sand-Plover	5	23	27	SA, PeBu, JH, DS, SSi
Whiskered Tern	5	22	29	SA, TLe, PJL, HLo, DS
Terek Sandpiper	4	26	30	JoBe, AFa, TJo, HLo
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	4	23	31	TD, DFu, MMcB, DHR
Groove-billed Ani	4	20	32	PeBu, SC, ME, RM
Snail Kite	4	20	32	MSA, SC, DP, HW
Thick-billed Longspur	4	19	34	SA, TWB, BFo, DHR
Eurasian Kestrel	4	18	35	PLe, MN, DHR, DS
Black-throated Sparrow	4	17	36	PeBu, ME, DFu, SSM
Variegated Flycatcher	5	13	37	GC, TD, AFa, AnW, RZ
Western Wood-Pewee	4	13	38	BBo, JDr, DGo, MY
Mediterranean Gull	3	15	39	JoBe, JRG, RRV
Dusky Flycatcher	3	12	40	MSA, PAB, PLe
European Storm-Petrel	3	12	40	TWB, JRG, DHR
Common Redshank	3	11	42	JeBr, PJL, MMcB
Great Kiskadee	3	10	43	WDA, DP, HW
Cordilleran Flycatcher	2	14	44	DFu, MMcB
Lesser Goldfinch	2	12	45	SF, HW
Lesser Nighthawk	3	8	45	JoBe, TLe, MY
Black Swift	2	8	47	PeBu, AFa
Great Knot	2	8	47	JoBe, JRG
Yellow-legged Gull	3	5	49	SC, PLe, SSM
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2	6	50	GC, KFu
Cassin's Finch	2	6	50	BFo, RG
Tufted Puffin	2	6	50	JoBe, HW
Hepatic Tanager	2	6	50	JH, SF
Common Shelduck	1	10	54	RRV
Yellow-browed Warbler	2	5	54	DGo, RRV
Eurasian Hobby	2	5	54	MN, DP
Common Sandpiper	1	9	57	DFu
Common Wood-Pigeon	1	9	57	RRV
Lucy's Warbler	3	3	57	SF, PLe, SSi
Mountain Plover	1	7	60	HW
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1	7	60	MN
Flammulated Owl	1	7	60	BFo
Dusky Thrush	1	7	60	JoBe
Black Kite	1	6	64	MN

Table 2. More predicted additions to the New York State Checklist—continued.

Species	#	Sum	Rank	Contributors
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	1	6	64	BFo
Gray-tailed Tattler	2	3	64	SBi, ME
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	5	67	MN
Red-footed Booby	1	5	67	JRG
Marsh Sandpiper	1	5	67	MR
Rock Ptarmigan	1	4	70	RG
Phainopepla	1	4	70	PeBu
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1	4	70	MSA
Hooded Oriole	1	4	70	TD
White-chinned Petrel	1	4	70	JDC
Swainson's Flycatcher	1	4	70	RRV
Piratic Flycatcher	1	3	76	DGo
Whooping Crane	1	3	76	RG
American Flamingo	1	3	76	HW
Short-tailed Hawk	1	3	76	MN
Cape Verde Shearwater	1	3	76	MMcB
Common Snipe	1	2	81	DGo
European Robin	1	2	81	HW
Pacific Wren	1	2	81	MY
Hen Harrier	1	2	81	MN
Gray Vireo	1	2	81	BFo
Southern Martin	1	2	81	RRV
Vaux's Swift	1	2	81	JeBr
Common Swift	1	1	88	DGo
Common Cuckoo	1	1	88	SA
Small-billed Elaenia	1	1	88	JDr
Blue-footed Booby	1	1	88	RG
Common Scoter	1	1	88	PeBu
Red-footed Falcon	1	1	88	MN
Velvet Scoter	1	1	88	MI
Siberian Rubythroat	1	1	88	BFo
Steller's Eider	1	1	88	PJL
Bluethroat	1	1	88	TS
Red-throated Pipit	1	1	88	SSM

= the number of lists featuring the species; sum = sum of ranks assigned to each species, with 10 being highest likelihood and 1 lowest. Species are ranked by an index computed as the product of # and sum. See Methods for full names of contributors.

Table 3. Predicted new breeding species for New York State—v. 6.0.

Species	#	Sum	Index	Rank
White Ibis	17	74	1258	1
Royal Tern	10	35	350	2
White-faced Ibis	9	26	234	3
Black-necked Stilt	8	26	208	4
Eurasian Collared-Dove	7	25	175	5
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	6	21	126	6
Brown Pelican	6	14	84	7
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	15	60	8
Kirtland's Warbler	4	12	48	9
Carolina Chickadee	4	10	40	10
Yellow Rail	3	9	27	11
American White Pelican	3	9	27	11
Nelson's Sparrow	3	6	18	13
Manx Shearwater	2	9	18	13
LeConte's Sparrow	3	4	12	15
Swallow-tailed Kite	2	6	12	15
Neotropic Cormorant	2	5	10	17
American Avocet	2	5	10	17
Fox Sparrow	2	4	8	19
Pine Grosbeak	2	4	8	19
Bell's Vireo	2	3	6	21
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2	3	6	21
Greater Scaup	1	5	5	23
Bufflehead	2	2	4	24
Little Egret	2	2	4	24
Brewer's Blackbird	1	4	4	24
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	4	4	24
White-winged Dove	1	3	3	28
Red-throated Loon	1	3	3	28
Anhinga	1	3	3	28
Red-necked Grebe	1	2	2	31
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	2	2	31
Western Meadowlark	1	1	1	33
Swainson's Warbler	1	1	1	33
American Avocet	1	1	1	33
Boreal Owl	1	1	1	33
Lark Sparrow	1	1	1	33

Black-backed Gull, Brown Pelican, Kirtland's Warbler, Carolina Chickadee, Yellow Rail, American White Pelican, Manx Shearwater, Nelson's Sparrow, and Swallow-tailed Kite rounding out the top 15. One interesting thing to note is the number of rarities that showed up on the list of predicted breeders. Around 17 NYSARC reviewable species were voted onto the Next 5 breeders lists. If these rarities were to come to pass, they could be either as part of major population-wide expansions (à la White Ibis and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck), or peripheral occurrences of species with widespread breeding populations not overly far from NY (Western Meadowlark, Le Conte's Sparrow).

DISCUSSION

A large majority of the top 20 from the 2015 voting are still out there waiting to get onto the New York State scoreboard. In fact, just six of the top 25 had been recorded before the most recent round of voting (though a seventh has subsequently occurred between voting and publication), giving us a ~25% hit rate for the species that have the highest levels of confidence and support. Meanwhile 10 of the top 20 from the **2010** predictions have still yet to occur!

Between 2016 and 2018, there were only two additions to the state list, then there was one in each of the next two years, and then all of a sudden BOOM, we got five new ones in 2021, followed by five more in 2022! Surely you would expect the rate at which new-to-New York species are being found to slow down, but this has not been observed in the past, and does not seem to be happening, even now. As this issue goes to publication in late 2023, four more state firsts have been recorded, pending NYSARC approval (see Postscript).

There are plenty of factors that can contribute to this steady increase in the state list. Not least of these is the explosion of information and interconnection, as alluded to in the introduction. The abundance of information on bird distribution and ID, as well as the awareness of what rare birds might be possible and could be looked for, are unprecedented. The proliferation of cameras has acted as an accelerant to this affect as well, making anybody who is willing to point a camera at a bird a potential finder of a first state record. Add to this the explosion of birding as a hobby after the Covid-19 pandemic struck, and bird finding in general is entering a golden era never before seen.

These changing sociological factors will likely continue to shape perceptions—and detections—of those potential vagrants that most closely resemble our common birds. The rankings of some birds, like Black-chinned and Allen's Hummingbirds (which would likely be found in settings where repeated photography and in-hand measurements are possible), have not been impacted by the formidable ID hurdles they present, but similar hurdles have undoubtedly affected the perceived likelihoods of other species, such as Black-whiskered Vireo, Dusky Flycatcher, Lesser Nighthawk, Western Wood-Pewee, Brewer's Sparrow, Carolina Chickadee, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Common Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Common Scoter, Great-tailed Grackle, Shiny Cowbird, Cassin's

Finch, and a couple of species of old world harriers. It's also perhaps the reason why Pacific Wren, a common migrant from the west coast, has (so far) received so little love in these votes (just one 9th place vote this time around).

Taxonomic interpretations can also have a dramatic effect on detection of rarities as well as the voting in these lists. When vagrant subspecies are elevated to species status, interest in and awareness of their identification dramatically increases. The efficacy of increased awareness and motivation has been observed to a striking degree since the elevation of Nelson's Sparrow, and the principle might now be brought to bear on Pacific Wren, and on potential future splits, such as White-breasted Nuthatch and Marsh Wren. Meanwhile, when difficult-to-separate species pairs get lumped (à la Western Flycatcher), people are more likely to vote for the new species to show up, since the identification difficulty is removed as a hurdle to the species getting identified with certainty. "Western" Warbling Vireo is known from NYS from a bird banded by an observer aware of its potential vagrancy and its potential as a future split.

There has been a huge uptick in rare birds being identified after their actual field encounters via photos, whether the observer knew they had anything interesting in the field or not—and sometimes when they didn't even knowingly observe the bird. There are some never-before recorded species pairs that could be impossible to separate with certainty even from photos, such as old world swifts (good luck separating Common from Pallid with average-quality photos), *Phylloscopus* warblers (Yellow-browed Warbler and Hume's Warbler are even harder to separate visually than the swifts mentioned above), and *Elaenias* (this ID issue has reared its head in other states when comparing Small-billed to White-crested).

The specter of ever more extreme weather is one of the most acute manifestations of our broad spectrum climate change, likely promising many changes to our future avifauna. Birds are very sensitive to the environment in so many ways, and it seems clear that various species will continue to respond both passively and actively to changes in weather and climate. New York's checklist will surely continue to grow via lone birds going rogue and others on the vanguard of population-level trends. The latter are often obvious, leap-frogging the edges of a wealth of data points expanding across the map. The former can also seem obvious, but you never know in the moment whether or not something that seems like an isolated record (consider the Brooklyn Gray-breasted Martin) might prove to be the first in a future pattern. It is unlikely that the first Southern Lapwing to show up in Costa Rica set off alarm bells that they would become a common breeder through much of the country within a decade or two. At what point should the vagrant White Ibises in New Jersey have gone from being deemed merely "post-breeding dispersers" and "spring overshoots" to being seen as the sign of an impending breeding explosion?

LESSONS

What can we learn from the results of this exercise? Is there even any reason for us to spend precious brain space on this at all? I would give an emphatic "yes" to the latter question. In addition to prompting us to think outside the box, mulling the subject of new vagrants forces us to think carefully about bird distributions and the litany of factors that affect them. It draws attention to how changing climate (warming temperatures, drought, sea level rise, etc.) reshuffles birds on the planetary playing board, and when we compare these predictions to prior ones, we can see how these factors (and our perception of them) have changed over the years.

These predictions in the aggregate are basically a time capsule of the conventional wisdom of the day. Species that have large spikes one year and then drop off the next time voting comes around were likely examples of recency bias, where one or more nearby records had primed local birders to think about the species more or perceive a developing pattern. When that perceived pattern failed to materialize, the voting fervor for those species cooled down.

One prior example is Brown-chested Martin. Is this Neotropical species now any less likely to occur than it was 12 years ago when it made the top 10 (6 lists)? Conversely, there are birds that didn't show up or were ranked fairly low in prior rankings, and have shot up this time around. Some are due to obvious population expansions or environment-induced irruptions (obvious examples being Limpkin for the Next 10, White Ibis for the Next 5), whereas others may indeed be due to recency bias: If the Steller's Sea-Eagle eventually stops performing its yearly Maritimes-to-Maine ping pong act, our chances of having one in the state will return to pre-"Stella" levels, and it will likely see a precipitous fall on this list. For species like Heermann's Gull, the jury is still out on whether there are just a couple of wandering individuals, or whether this is going to become a trend with more of them. By the time the next iteration of this comes around, we will undoubtedly have a better idea. Changes in status can be very rapid—Zone-tailed Hawk went from no votes, to the top 25 in five years, and by the time it occurred six years later it was considered obviously overdue by many.

There is much hearty food for thought on these lists. *Patterns of vagrancy, and expanding breeding ranges, are telling us something about the environment as well as something about the adaptability of species.*

Within the broader pattern of episodic dispersal by southern waterbirds, Limpkin illustrates the adaptive value of such exploration—vagrants pushed out of their breeding areas (for instance due to southern droughts) are discovering distant patches of habitat that have recently become appropriate for them because of both climate change and invasive snails. If they hadn't been pushed out of their normal habitat, it's possible that they wouldn't have an inkling of this newly suitable swath of the country.

Another point to consider is that in the 1940s, Glossy Ibis was a mega-rarity in NY and Cattle Egret was not yet known to North American birders. Birders observed these widespread Old World species colonize the New World in real

time. And we now understand that Glossy Ibis has done this twice: the earlier event (Pleistocene) resulting in the divergence of a New World "species" White-faced Ibis; the more recent one (ca. 1880s) bringing modern Glossy Ibis back into contact with White-faced, from which it is incompletely reproductively isolated. Western Reef-Heron and Little Egret have been added to the NYS list via similar processes, and now White-faced Ibis itself is expanding "southern waterbird" style, overlapping Glossy Ibis to a much greater extent than previously, and placing itself, as is also true for White Ibis, as a contender to breed in NYS.

POSTSCRIPT

During the time between when the votes were polled and this article is being published, multiple species have appeared for their first time in New York: Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Bermuda Petrel, Limpkin, Glaucous-winged Gull, and Heermann's Gull. As this paper was going to press, a Short-tailed Shearwater, a species not yet guessed (and now never to be guessed) in any of the iterations of the Next 10, was seen from Derby Hill, Oswego County. Almost concurrent with that, a Black-chinned Hummingbird on Randall's Island in New York County furnished a first record for New York State for one of the most widely anticipated new additions for decades.

Birders at Prospect Park, *Kings*, 1 April 2021. Photo © S. S. Mitra.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Ruffed Grouse at Muttontown Preserve, Nassau County, Spring 1983

It was a beautiful sunny and cool spring day in the southern part of Muttontown Preserve where there are a lot of pine trees and my friend Geoff Schaffner and I heard the distinctive and unique drumming of a male Ruffed Grouse that could only be this species. The drumming started off very slowly (maybe one beat per two seconds) and quickly became a very rapid drumroll (maybe 10 to 20 beats per second). It was a remarkable find and we listened to this rare sound for several minutes. We even found its likely drumming log, a dead pine tree. I did not know how special this "sighting" was until I joined eBird this year. When I looked at the map for all the historical sightings for Ruffed Grouse on Long Island, I was rather surprised at the complete absence of recorded sightings west of Shirley. Therefore, this sighting is obviously very important and I feel obligated to report it even though I do not have an exact date or even year. However, I am very sure it was Spring of 1983 and most probably May. I was and am a pretty experienced birder and I have no doubt whatsoever that my friend and I heard the drumming of a Ruffed Grouse on that spring day in Muttontown Preserve.

Vincent Glasser
Suffolk County, NY

[See article on Ruffed Grouse on Long Island, *Kingbird* 72 (4): 322-330—*Ed.*]

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IN MEMORIAM: SHERRI LEIGH SMITH

March 29, 1949 – September 13, 2022

Sherri Leigh Smith, known by many New York birders as Gerry Smith, passed away on 13 September. Sherri was a lifelong birder, raptor enthusiast, conservationist, and also a former Region 6 editor for *The Kingbird*. Not only was she active in a wide variety of conservation efforts involving the avifauna of northern and central New York, but was also a mentor and advisor to many in the regional birding and conservation communities. Sherri was also a great source of information on the history of birds and birders in this Region, who I frequently consulted with for historical context when writing my Regional reports. Sherri will be greatly missed by many.

Jeff Bolsinger, Region 6 Editor

This past year marked the passing of Derby Hill Bird Observatory's first full-time and longest-serving hawk counter (1979-1993), our friend and mentor Sherri Smith.

There was no one more skilled at predicting favorable flights at Derby Hill. In her final season, with a new official hawk counter, Sherri willingly accepted the task of posting daily predictions. Her enjoyment and humor often were expressed in these, and her forecasts were spot on.

Sherri served as Onondaga Audubon's president twice and became the organization's institutional knowledge keeper. She was local media's go-to person on all things avian. During her terms of service, she brought speakers such as Pete Dunne and Laurie Goodrich to Syracuse for program meetings.

Sherri earned a degree in biology from SUNY Oswego and worked for a time at the college's Rice Creek Field Station. She also served as a Nature Conservancy land steward in the eastern Lake Ontario region and was a vocal conservation activist and defender of natural habitats. Never timid about expressing her opinions in writing or in person, Sherri was well known to local and state regulatory agencies as an advocate for environmental protection.

To those of us who came to know her, Sherri was a valued friend whose absence at Derby Hill will create a noticeable void as the 2023 season begins. In recent years, Sherri would end her communications with the phrase "Birds rise above it all." We wish the same for her.

Written by Alison Kocek, with input from Dave Fitch and Sandy Bonanno, for the the Onondaga Audubon Society newsletter and website; shared with permission.

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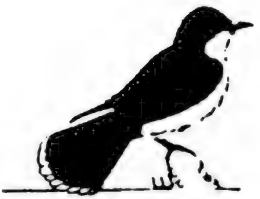

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EDITOR'S NOTE

With a backlog of excellent articles ready to go, and with an eye toward improving *The Kingbird's* longstanding publication delays, I have taken a rather radical approach to the contents of the last published and the present issues. The Fall 2022 Regional Reports have been divided between Volume 73, Number 1, and this issue, Number 2, which includes the Highlights of the Fall 2022 season. Number 3 will thus include the Winter season reports.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – FALL 2022

Dominic Sherony
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Except for a few unusual events, the fall weather season was generally normal. September was about average temperature-wise; precipitation was variable with some dry areas across the state. October was dry throughout most of the state except in Regions 6 and 10. November was warmer than average throughout New York. The remnants of Hurricane *Nicole* on 10 November brought significant rainfall, and likely contributed to a wetter than average season throughout most of the state. The warm temperatures of Lake Erie and heavy winds combined to whip up a three day storm beginning 17 November that brought a record 88 inches of lake-effect snow to Buffalo, and the westerly winds delivered 50 inches of snow to the Watertown area on 18 November, significantly hampering both areas.

Sightings of fall waterfowl migrants were as expected in most Regions but lower than usual in eastern Lake Ontario where they gather in large rafts in Region 6. Greater White-fronted Goose was seen in all but two Regions, all in small numbers. Cackling Goose is annual throughout most of the state and Ross's Goose remains rare, but was reported from four Regions. A Pink-footed Goose was found 27 November in Suffolk County. Two Tufted Ducks, one on Lake Champlain and a female at Buffalo Harbor, were among the rarities, which also included Eurasian Wigeon in three Regions. The only Barrow's Goldeneye reported was at Pillar Point in Region 6. Unusual were a high count of 422 Black Scoters in Region 6, as well as a dozen Black Scoters found at two inland locations: Whitney Point Reservoir and on Plymouth Reservoir in Chenango County. Perhaps most unusual was a Mottled Duck observed for a month in Amityville, Region 10, no doubt the same bird that had briefly appeared there five months earlier, then rediscovered by its original finder!

Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in two Regions (1 and 10), and a very rare Calliope Hummingbird visited a feeder in Region 10. For the second year in a row, Adam Troyer found a Yellow Rail on his farm in Tioga County, this one on 15 October and seen and photographed by others the following day. But the most amazing story among the rails this fall was a Limpkin, a first state record, found on the Niagara River in Lewiston (Region 1) on 9 November. It remained in a small area feeding on snails until 18 November when it was captured in the face of the massive snow storm that struck the Region. It was later successfully released in North Carolina. A detailed account can be found in the article in *Kingbird* 73 (1): pp. 7-14. Two Neotropic Cormorants were found, one on each side of the state in Regions 1 and 9, both in October. Reports of Eared Grebe came from five Regions (1, 2, 3, 9, and 10), generally singles and those in the western part of the state were lingering birds.

Regions 1, 4, 6, and 7 reported a lackluster year for shorebird migrants; however, good shorebird habitat in Regions 2, 5, and 10 allowed local birders to find some exciting records. American Avocets were recorded in two upstate

Regions with a maximum of three at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, as well as five from Region 10, a good showing. American Golden-Plovers have diminished in fall numbers in the past 30 years but two large flocks, 36 in Region 3 and 44 in Region 10, afforded encouraging news. Eight Hudsonian Godwits provided a new high for Region 6 at Sherwin Bay. Many observers were fortunate to see a Ruff found by Dave Kennedy in Wayne County, 20-22 October. This bird was always seen accompanied by a Lesser Yellowlegs; the pair would come and go together to a flooded area along Armitage Road. (See photo, p. 124)

Rare gulls were widely distributed throughout the state with the Niagara River providing the greatest number of species. Surprisingly, Black-legged Kittiwake was reported from seven upstate Regions, plus Region 10 where more regular. Sabine's Gulls were seen in the three Regions bordering Lake Ontario. Franklin's Gulls, rare in the eastern US, were recorded in Regions 1 and 3. The only reported Black-headed Gull was one that spent half a year on Jamaica Bay's East Pond (Region 10). Jaegers made a good showing upstate with many reports from Regions 2 and 5. A total of five Pomarine Jaegers were reported statewide. Data from Lake Michigan indicates that the median date of arrival of inland jaegers has become earlier (K. Brock, personal communications). Analysis of long term data from Hamlin Beach State Park from 1994 through 2017 supports this premise of earlier arrivals by approximately ten days over that period to a median date of 28 September (author, unpublished data).

Pelagic species are primarily seen off Region 10 from both land and pelagic trips. Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen off Montauk following Hurricane *Ian*. Brown Boobies were seen from four locations in Region 10. On a pelagic trip 17 October, an outstanding pelagic find was a Bermuda Petrel; also reported were a White-faced Storm-Petrel, Black-capped Petrels, and Audubon Shearwater.

There were some interesting reports from the hawk watch sites this season. Chestnut Ridge reported a whopping 19,460 raptors for the fall, the Franklin Mountain hawk flight was below average with several factors at play (see the Region 4 report in the previous issue), and Fire Island saw a decline in numbers for six regularly occurring species. Golden Eagles were seen in nine of the ten Regions, with most reports from the eastern side of the state. The highest count of 125 at Franklin Mountain was 30% below average. The only Swainson's Hawk was photographed at Braddock Bay, Region 2, on 19 September. A Mississippi Kite was seen over Prospect Park, Region 10, on 17 September. A total of 21 Northern Goshawks was reported from six Regions (2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9).

A Crested Caracara, first for Suffolk County and second for Long Island, was spotted at Montauk Point on 2 September, then seen on the privately owned Gardiner's Island, accessible only with permission and by boat, during September and October.

The Motus wildlife tracking stations, an international collaborative research project, uses radio telemetry to track passerines throughout their migration routes. David Wheeler's Region 5 report takes a detailed look at some of the interesting results from this technology. As an example, a Swainson's Thrush that passed Derby Hill in early October later completed a lengthy one-day flight from near

Atlanta, GA to the Yucatan peninsula, a distance of about 1,000 miles. The Motus station data, when added to the night-migration monitoring, will help to further our understanding of passerine migration.

It is difficult to get a measure of overall passerine migration but most reports indicated a normal fall season this year, except in Region 6 which where it was described as lackluster. Several authors reported warbler variety at about average. There were many reports of Evening Grosbeak, but winter finch numbers were light at best.

Connecticut Warbler, always difficult to detect, was found in eight Regions. A Worm-eating Warbler seen in Broome County, Region 4, on 1 September was the only report away from the more eastern and southern counties. Yellow-throated Warblers were found in four Regions (3, 5, 9, and 10). Region 10 recorded a remarkable series of very rare passerines, with highly varied origins in the Arctic, the Caribbean, western North American, and the Neotropics: Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Townsend's Solitaire, Northern Wheatear, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Townsend's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Western Tanager. Other noteworthy sightings include Townsend's Warbler in Region 1, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Northern Wheatear in Region 9, and Loggerhead Shrike seen in Regions 5 and 9.

There were many more noteworthy species mentioned by Regional Editors not covered in this summary, such as Black Vulture, Anhinga, White Ibis, White-winged Dove, Cave Swallow, Dickcissel, Nelson's Sparrow, Bohemian Waxwing, Western Meadowlark, and others. Readers can peruse the bolded notations in the reports to find these species and others, and are encouraged to read all of these well written Regional summaries.

Each quarter we select the "bird of the season", a win-less task given the diversity of the candidates and number of rare species. I am going to choose the Limpkin from Region 1 for several reasons. It was discovered by a local fishing captain, Frank Campbell, who realized it was unusual; it is a first state record; many people got to see it; it found enough food in a very small patch of brush to live for more than a week; and, by good fortune, escaped a killer snow storm through the efforts a number of concerned citizens.

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REGIONAL REPORTS—FALL 2022, IN PART

Because of space limitations, and in an effort to improve the publication schedule of *The Kingbird*, the present issue has been expedited and includes the balance of the Fall 2022 Regional reports (several Regional reports for Fall 2022 were published in the last issue, Vol.73 No. 1.).

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Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relNov-2022. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Nov 2022.

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The **Region 1** report was published in the previous issue, Vol. 73, No.1.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

Nick Kachala
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Overall, an exciting fall for shorebirds and winter finches. For September, temperatures averaged 62.5° F, 1.1° below normal. The average high was even cooler than normal, at 70.7°, 2.9° below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.81", 0.37" below normal, but much more than recent months. September marked the sixth month in a row with below average precipitation, but much of the Region saw their moderate drought status change to "abnormally dry" by the end of the month. For October, temperatures averaged 50.6°, 1.6° below normal. Precipitation totaled 1.25", 1.97" below normal. October brought the first signs of an approaching winter. The Rochester airport recorded the first snowflakes of the year on 20 October. A temperature rollercoaster then ensued, with above average days contrasting with below average days to finish the month out—a typical transitional period. November started off unseasonably warm. Eleven out of the first fifteen days of the month had high temperatures above 60°. Temperatures averaged 43.3°, finishing out at 1.9° above average. The remnants of Hurricane *Nicole* brought anywhere between 1-3" of rain to the Region the weekend of Veterans' Day with the Rochester airport measuring 1.69". A record warm Lake Erie coupled with the right wind direction and air temperature produced a historic snowstorm that buried the suburbs south of Buffalo in as many as 88" of snow. Rochester only recorded 3.8" of snowfall during the event on the 16 November through 20 November.

Diligent observers at the Hamlin Beach SP Lakewatch, the Sodus Bay Lighthouse Lakewatch, and other locations around the Region reported average numbers of waterfowl. Northern Pintail flew in good numbers the first half of October. Birders both at Hamlin and Sodus reported good numbers of scoters (all three species). Large waterfowl movements occurred on 20 October and 27 October. There were two flyby Eurasian Wigeons along Lake Ontario in Greece. Ruddy Duck numbers built on Long Pond in Greece through the month, approaching 136 by the end of the month. Two regulars at the Hamlin Beach SP Lakewatch reported a Ross's Goose in flight with a few Snow Geese on 7

November. Michelle Gianvecchio and Andy Guthrie reported a maximum of 37 Cackling Geese from Hamlin Beach SP on 6 November. Among the ducks, 8 November stood out as a good movement day for scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala found a rare hybrid Mallard x Northern Pintail at LaSalle's Landing Park on 19 November. The same hybridization was observed at the same spot in the fall of 2020. No Greater White-fronted Geese, Harlequin Ducks, or King Eiders were reported.

Continuing with waterbirds and waders, Michelle Gianvecchio found an Eared Grebe on Braddock Bay on 30 September, which stayed until 13 October. American Coot numbers built on Braddock Bay through October and November, with the highest count of 320 in the first half of November. Sandhill Crane numbers topped out at 28 off Armitage Road in Savannah for October and rose to 127 on Olmstead Road in Savannah by 29 November. Loon numbers were lower in October, but lake watchers had a few days over 100 for Common Loon for the month. Andy Guthrie reported a large flight of Common Loons on 6 November, totaling 1,850 past Hamlin Beach State Park. Red-throated Loon peaked on 8 November, with 188 passing Hamlin Beach State Park. Perhaps one of the best spectacles this month was **33 Cattle Egrets** reported and photographed together by Doug Beattie in Stafford on 15 October. Smaller numbers of Cattle Egrets were reported elsewhere closer to the lakeshore in October and early November. An unidentified-to-species Glossy/White-faced Ibis briefly landed in the channel at Sodus Point on 15 October, but weather conditions did not make for a good enough picture to assign to either species.

Irondequoit Bay hosted impressive numbers of Chimney Swifts, with Nate Ukens counting 435 on 8 October, a very high count for the date.

The shorebird spectacle continued all over the Region, with Braddock Bay's East Spit hosting the largest concentrations. This was a direct result of unusually low water levels on Lake Ontario, which exposed a large mudflat. Lake Ontario started September at 244.91' and reached its lowest reading of 244.00' on 10 November. This meant the lake was more than 12 inches below the long-term average for the season and more than 18 inches below the height of fall 2021. Among the actual birds, Alan Bloom found a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the East Spit on 9 September, which stayed one day. Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported from Sodus Point on 15 September. Steve Taylor reported a **Western Sandpiper** at Braddock Bay on 27 September. Hudsonian Godwit was an occasional visitor to the East Spit in September and October, with at least two individuals spread out over the months. Red-necked Phalarope was reported from the East Spit on 2-4 September and Sodus on 5-7 September. Three Purple Sandpipers were observed, the first an early bird in late October followed by two more in late November, all at the East Spit. The shorebird of the season goes to Dave Kennedy, who reported a **Ruff** from Armitage Road in Wayne County on 20-22 October.

Among the gulls, Andy Guthrie observed two **Sabine's Gulls**, the first on 14 September and the second on 24 September. A Laughing Gull was observed at Sodus Point on 2 September. October had an unimpressive number and diversity

of gulls, with nothing notable. That changed slightly in November, with two reports of Black-legged Kittiwake, both from the lakeshore in Hilton/Hamlin on 8 November and 14 November, respectively. There were no reports of Little Gull all season, as has become the trend in recent years. The first Iceland Gull arrived on 24 November, somewhat late. Glaucous Gull is another miss among this group for the entire season. Michelle Gianvecchio had the highest count of Bonaparte's Gull anywhere in the Region, with 300 from LaSalle's Landing Park on 28 November. The jaeger season was somewhat average, with 10, 17, and 6 Parasitic Jaegers recorded in September, October, and November, respectively, plus many jaegers not identified to species. Two "Parasitic/Long-tailed" Jaegers were reported to eBird in September. Tim Lenz photographed a Pomarine Jaeger from the Sodus Point Lighthouse Lakewatch on 10 October. Pomarine Jaeger was also observed on 11 October and 29 October from Sodus Point.

The raptor of the season was a beautifully photographed **Swainson's Hawk** found by Ben Nieman and Rob Sielaff of Buffalo at the East Spit on 19 September. A Golden Eagle on 9 October over Irondequoit Bay was the only one for the season. A late Osprey was reported from Braddock Bay in late October and stayed through 12 November. One Northern Goshawk was reported from Greece by Chris Wood on 23 October and another passed Braddock Bay on 5 November, independently seen by two parties. There were 10 reports of Northern Saw-Whet Owl, eight from banding at the BBBO and two found in Owl Woods between October and November. One species of note, or perhaps lack-of, was American Kestrel, with only 23 reports representing about 21 individuals. Merlin had about double the reports of American Kestrel. This trend is the opposite of last year, where American Kestrel was significantly up.

Small migratory passerines moved through in full force in September, with no notable misses. Connecticut Warbler seemed more numerous than in recent years, with 10 individuals reported from the Region, five of which were banded. Observers began covering the Genesee Land Trust's newly established Salmon Creek Nature Preserve for uncommon sparrows this season. Although no Nelson's Sparrows were turned up this year, counts of other species, mainly Swamp Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow, were good. The BBBO reported unusually high numbers of some bands. Species with notably high banding numbers for September were: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (27), Red-eyed Vireo (83), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (137), Gray Catbird (113), Gray-cheeked Thrush (54), Swainson's Thrush (195), White-throated Sparrow (482), Northern Waterthrush (16), Nashville Warbler (20), Connecticut Warbler (5), Magnolia Warbler (137), Bay-breasted Warbler (52), Blackpoll Warbler (341), Black-throated Blue Warbler (28), and Wilson's Warbler (13). Most species departed within their normal time frames. One band of note was a **White-eyed Vireo** on 20 October, with periodic recaptures through 26 November. Two Dickcissels were observed in October, the first over Hamlin Beach State Park on 16 October as a flyover and the second on 29 October as a roadside bird in the town of Hamlin. Evening Grosbeaks flew in excellent numbers in the last days of October, with

PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2022, in part:
Regions 2, 6, 7, and 10

Swainson's Hawk, Braddock Bay East Spit, Monroe, 19 Sep 2022, © Rob Sielaff.

Ruff with Lesser Yellowlegs, its constant companion, Armitage Road, *Wayne*, here 21 Oct 2022, © Dominic Sherony.

Crested Caracara, Camp Hero, Montauk, *Suffolk*, 2 Sep 2022, © Elias Markee-Ratner.
American Avocet, Sherwin Bay, *Jefferson*, 11 Nov 2022, © Brian Miller.

Calliope Hummingbird, Eastport, *Suffolk*, here 20 Nov 2022, © Cheryl Orlowski.

Nelson's Sparrow, Bouquet River mouth, *Essex*, 30 Sep 2022, © Derek H. Rogers.

Photos of First Records for New York State, Fall 2022

See article, pp. 90-113.

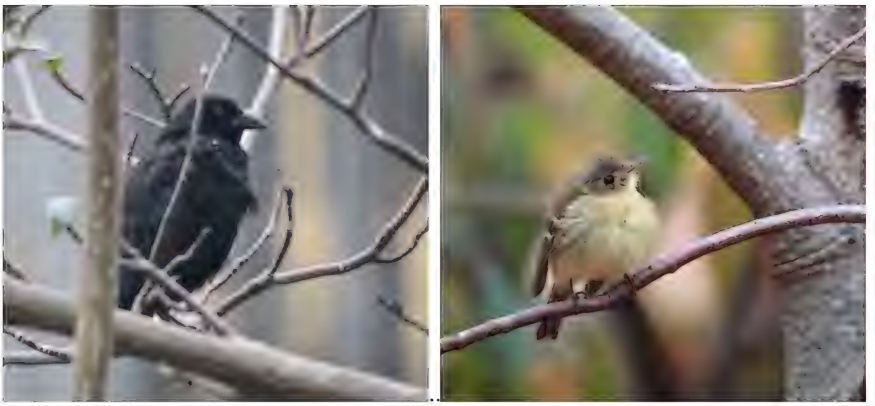
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Wave Hill, *Bronx*, 9 Oct 2022, © Gabriel Willow.

Bermuda Petrel, pelagic trip near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 17 Oct 2022, © Max Epstein.

Limpkin, Lewiston, *Niagara*, 16 Nov 2022, © Brendan Fogarty.

Previously Unpublished Photos of First Records for New York State, 2015-2022

See article, pp. 90-113.



Left: Bronzed Cowbird, Norfolk, *St. Lawrence*, 21 Oct 2015, © Nora Lee.
Right: "Pacific-slope" Western Flycatcher, Central Park, *New York*, 22 Nov 2015, © Nadir Souirgi.

Left: Garganey, Montezuma NWR, *Seneca*, 5 Jun 2016, © Jay McGowan.
Right: Clark's Grebe, Oswego Harbor, *Oswego*, 27 Feb 2017, © Tom Johnson.

Inca Dove, Lakewood, *Chautauqua*, 8 Dec 2017, © Willie D'Anna.

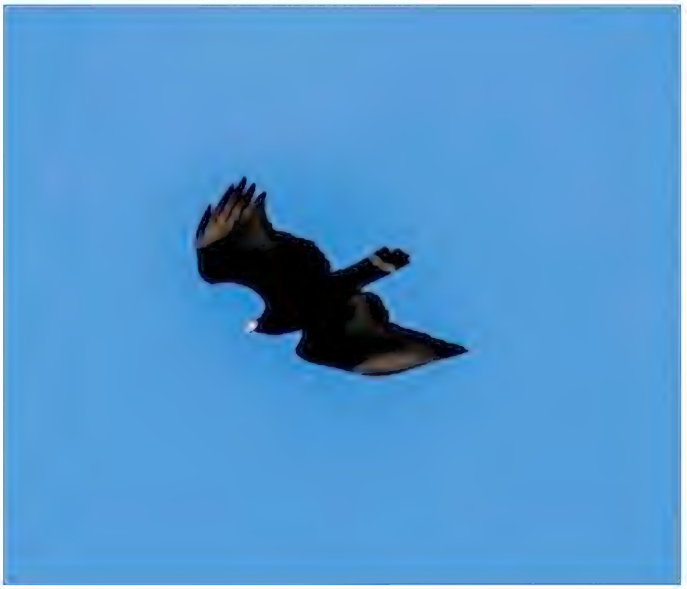
Left: Common Greenshank, Timber Point CP, *Suffolk*, 5 May 2019, © Josh Cantor.
Right: Tropical Kingbird, Dobbs Ferry, *Westchester*, 28 Oct 2020, © Tom Warren.

Left: Ferruginous Hawk, near Pine Island, *Orange*, 25 Feb 2021, © Linda Scrima.
Right: Tundra Bean-Goose. First found in *Saratoga* in March of 2021, what was possibly the same bird was seen the following spring in Central New York, here at Seneca Lake SP, *Seneca*, 10 Mar 2022, © Jay McGowan.

Gray-breasted Martin, Prospect Park, *Kings*, 1 Apr 2021, © Shane Blodgett.

Violet-green Swallow, Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, *Saratoga*, 22 Apr 2021, © John Hershey.

Snowy Plover, Sandy Pond Outlet, *Oswego*, 16 Sep 2021, © Jeff Bolsinger.



Zone-tailed Hawk, Green-Wood Cemetery, *Kings*, 2 Apr 2022, © Seth Barr.

Mottled Duck. First discovered by Ernst Mutchnick at Ketcham's Creek, *Suffolk*, on 5 Apr 2022; what is believed to be the same individual was re-discovered nearby the following spring, by the original finder. Here: Avon Lake, *Suffolk*, 8 Apr 2023, © Ernst Mutchnick.

the highest count of 16 on 29 October from the lakeshore and smaller flocks and single birds seeming to be everywhere along the lakeshore that week. The finch excitement continued into November, with Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks showing up along lakeshore hotspots. The first Bohemian Waxwing was reported on 15 November, with a high count of eight. Pine Grosbeak showed on 14 November. A maximum of 17 Red Crossbills was tallied at the Hamlin Beach State Park Lakewatch on 5 November. Fox Sparrows continued into November in larger numbers than in past years, a trend that is becoming more normal in Region 2 year after year.

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Many other observers contributed eBird data, but all cannot be listed here.

ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, MONR; **BB-ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, Town of Greece, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **IB-W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **LPd** – Long Pd, Town of Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M (OW)** – Owl Woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **RPd** – Round Pd, Town of Greece, MONR; **SCNP** – Salmon Creek Nature Pres, MONR; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester.

Snow Goose: arr IB-S 5 Sep (GF); max 12 HB 5 Nov (AGu).
Ross's Goose: arr HB 7 Nov (AGu, NU).
Greater White-fronted Goose: no reports!
Brant: arr 140 Alder Beach 2 Oct (JMi); max 187 SPt 27 Oct (TL); last Sep 28 Nov (MGu).
Cackling Goose: arr HB 23 Sep (AGu); max 37 HB 6 Nov (MGi, AGu).
Canada Goose: max 3,110 HB 5 Nov (AGu).
Mute Swan: max 90 IB-S 8 Oct (AB).
Trumpeter Swan: max 27 NMWMA 23 Oct (K. Case).
Tundra Swan: arr 3 LPd 8 Oct (AnK); max 100 BB-ES 24 Nov (GK, MK).
Wood Duck: max 85 NMWMA (MR) 9 Sep (MW).
Blue-winged Teal: max 33 IB-S 4 Oct; last HB 8 Nov (AGu, MGi).
Northern Shoveler: max 48 LPd 5 Nov (C. Moses, AR).
Gadwall: max 75 BB-HW 25 Nov (KH).
Eurasian Wigeon: m ED 27 Oct (CW); m NMWMA (AR) Rd 5 Nov (M&WR).

American Wigeon: max 350 RPd 8 Oct (AGu).
Mallard: max 550 Ontario Dr T Ontario 25 Nov (CGu).
American Black Duck: max 450 Ontario Dr T Ontario 25 Nov (CGu).
Northern Pintail: max 1,012 Alder Beach T Hamlin 2 Oct (JMi).
Green-winged Teal: max 365 NMWMA Audubon Center 22 Oct (CJ, LV).
Canvasback: arr BB-ES 12 Oct (MGi); max 10 LPd 30 Oct (CW, JeB).
Redhead: arr BB-ES 28 Sep (RRe); max 500 CL 29 Nov (TB).
Ring-necked Duck: arr TCEA 15 Sep (MW); max 225 LPd 30 Oct (CW, JeB).
Greater Scaup: arr 5 HB 22 Sep (AGu); max 100 SPt 29 Nov (JMe).
Lesser Scaup: arr HB 22 Sep (AGu); max 40 BB 19 Nov (AGu).
King Eider: no reports.
Harlequin Duck: no reports.
Surf Scoter: arr 3 HB 20 Sep (AGu); max 180 SPt 7 Oct (TL).
White-winged Scoter: arr 5 HB 20 Sep (AGu); max 163 HB 8 Nov (AGu) low.
Black Scoter: arr 3 SPt 29 Sep (BrdC); arr Bear Creek T Ontario 29 Sep (MGu); max 44 SPt 27 Oct (TL, RSt, DW).
Long-tailed Duck: arr HB 4 Oct (AGu); max 735 HB 13 Nov (AGu).
Bufflehead: arr BB-ES 11 Oct (MGi); max 117 HB 13 Nov (AGu).
Common Goldeneye: arr 7 SPt 22 Oct (CW, JeB; max 135 HB 7 Nov (NU).
Barrow's Goldeneye: no reports.
Hooded Merganser: max 380 Sodus Bay Shaker Tract 29 Nov (BrdC).
Common Merganser: max 137 Ontario Dr T Ontario 22 Nov (CGu).
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 5 BB-ES 6 Sep; max 5,000 Manitou Beach 6 Nov (R&SS).
Ruddy Duck: arr CL 29 Sep (KeC); max 136 LPd 30 Oct (CW, JeB).

Ruffed Grouse: ad Salt Rd T Webster 22 Oct (CW), rare in MONR.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 23 Howland Rd T Wolcott 9 Oct (M&WR).
Horned Grebe: arr HB 2 Sep (AGu); max 209 HB 6 Nov (AGu).
Red-necked Grebe: max 18 SPt 27 Oct (TL, RSt, DW).
Eared Grebe: BB 30 Sep-13 Oct (MG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last BB-ES 27 Sep (TR).

Common Nighthawk: last BB-WS 18 Sep (MMo).

Chimney Swift: max 435 IB-S 8 Oct (NU); last LSP 23 Oct (NU).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Rush Lima Rd T Rush 5 Oct (AM).

Sora: last 2 Seneca P 12 Oct
Common Gallinule: max 25 NMWMA (MR) 1 Sep (MW); last NMWMA (VDS) 3 Nov (M&WR).
American Coot: max 320 BB 12 Nov

Sandhill Crane: max 127 Olmstead Rd T Savannah 29 Nov (JaM).

Black-bellied Plover: last NMWMA (AR) 6 Nov (DK + 8 others).
American Golden-Plover: max 7 Redman Rd T Hamlin 13 Sep (AGu); last LPd 23 Nov (MGi).
Killdeer: max 70 Church Rd T Parma 5 Sep (AGu).
Semipalmated Plover: max 42 BB-ES 10 Sep (AGu, BM).

Upland Sandpiper: last Pratt Rd T Sodus 5-11 Sep (MGu).
Whimbrel: last SPt 11 Sep (M&WR).
Hudsonian Godwit: arr BB-ES 23 Sep (KGo); many in Region all October along lakeshore; last HB 5 Nov (AGu, JMi).
Ruddy Turnstone: last BB-ES 28 Oct (CW) late.
Red Knot: last BB-ES 20 Sep (mob all month).

RUFF: 1 NMWMA (AR) 21-22 Sep (DK + mob).
Stilt Sandpiper: last LPd 28 Oct (CW) late.
Sanderling: last 2 SPt 19 Oct (JWo).
Dunlin: last RPd 26 Nov (MGi).
Purple Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 30 Oct (MGi) early.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 4 BB-ES Creek 2 Oct (MGi).
Least Sandpiper: max 30 IB-S 2 Sep (JMi) low; last BB Salmon Creek 23 Sep (MGi).
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 2 BB Salmon Creek 31 Oct (JMi).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 BB-ES 9 Sep (AB + mob); last SPt 15 Sep (TL).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 40 NMWMA (AR) 21 Oct (BrdC).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 116 BB-ES 10 Sep (MGi); last BB-Salmon Creek 23 Oct (NK, RB, KH).
WESTERN SANDPIPER: BB-ES 27 Sep (ST + mob).
Short-billed Dowitcher: last BB-Salmon Creek 29 Sep (LyB).
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr SPt 6 Sep (TL); last IB-S 22 Oct (CW).
American Woodcock: last NMWMA Audubon Center 4 Nov (CL).
Wilson's Snipe: max 34 Pratt Rd T Sodus 24 Sep (MGu).
Spotted Sandpiper: last HB 11 Oct (AGu).
Solitary Sandpiper: last Canadice L Trails 18 Oct (BHo).
Lesser Yellowlegs: last SPt 7 Nov (MT).
Willet: last BB-ES 14 Sep (NR).
Greater Yellowlegs: last 10 RPd 7 Nov (JMi).
Wilson's Phalarope: last BB-ES 11 Sep (MGi + mob).
Red-necked Phalarope: last Pratt Rd T Sodus 7 Sep (MGu + mob).

Pomarine Jaeger: SPt 10 Oct, 11 Nov and 29 Nov (ER, MGu + mob).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr HB 1 Sep (AGu); last HB 8 Nov (AGu); ~33 total along lakeshore for season.
Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger: SPt 19 Sep (TL); 1 HB 20 Sep (AGu).

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr Alder Beach T Hamlin 8 Nov (JMi); HB 14 Nov (AGu).
Sabine's Gull: arr HB 14 Sep (AGu); max and last 2 HB 23 Sep (AGu).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 300 IB-S 28 Nov (MGi).
Laughing Gull: SPt 2 Sep (BrdC).
Iceland Gull: arr Sep 24 Nov (MGu).
Glaucous Gull: no reports!
Caspian Tern: last Charlotte Pier 8 Oct (AGu).
Black Tern: last BB-SP 14 Sep (AGu).
Common Tern: last Charlotte Pier 22 Oct (mob).
Forster's Tern: last BB-ES 15 Oct (MGi).

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 8 Oct (AGu); max 118 HB 8 Nov (AGu), low.
Common Loon: max 1,850 HB 6 Nov (AGu).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2,869 HB 4 Sep (AGu).

American Bittern: last ED 23 Oct (CW).
Least Bittern: last NMWMA (MR) 13 Sep (DW).
Great Egret: max 59 Ellicott St T Batavia 18 Sep (DgB).
Cattle Egret: max 33 Main St T Stafford 15 Oct (DgB).
Green Heron: last Boughton P T Bloomfield 18 Oct (JPe).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last Broad St Bridge Rochester 27 Oct (BJ).

Glossy/White-faced Ibis: SPt 15 Oct (KGa, JWi).

Osprey: last BB-ES 29 Oct through 12 Nov (mob), very late.

Golden Eagle: IB-S 9 Oct (NU).
Northern Goshawk: ED 23 Oct (CW); BB 5 Nov (KH, MGi, AGu).
Broad-winged Hawk: last T Palmyra 23 Sep (MMc).
SWAINSON'S HAWK: BB-ES 19 Sep (RSi, BN).
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Nations Rd IBA 10 Oct (AMc).

Snowy Owl: no reports!
Long-eared Owl: no reports!
Short-eared Owl: arr BB Burger P 22 Oct (AGu, MGi).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: arr M (OW) 8 Oct (RB, NK), total b 8 BBBO October.

Red-headed Woodpecker: last Old French Rd T Mendon 27 Oct (BrdC).

Great Crested Flycatcher: last HB 24 Sep (AGu).
Eastern Kingbird: last HB 14 Sep (AGu).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Beechwood SP 15 Sep (TL, MGu, BrdC).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: last Rotterdam Rd T Sodus 3 Oct (JWo).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last BB-ES 26 Sep (LBi, RCl); total b 27 BBBO.
Willow Flycatcher: last Ontario Center Greenway P T Ontario 14 Sep (MSch).
Least Flycatcher: last HB 24 Sep (AGu).
Eastern Phoebe: last Fawn Ridge T Bristol 4 Nov (KK).

White-eyed Vireo: b BBBO (Manitou) 20-26 Nov (recaptures).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last Rotterdam Rd T Sodus 27 Sep (JWo).
Blue-headed Vireo: last Cook & Redman Rd T Hamlin 29 Oct (AGu).
Philadelphia Vireo: last NMWMA West Shore Trail 1 Oct (DK).
Warbling Vireo: last Beechwood SP 5 Oct (TL).
Red-eyed Vireo: last Abraham Lincoln P T Webster 12 Oct (RM).

Northern Shrike: arr HB (AGu) & BB Burger P 31 Oct (LyB).

Horned Lark: max 110 Wadsworth Rd T Caledonia 26 Sep (NK).

Bank Swallow: max and last 60 NMWMA Muckrace Flats 10 Sep (DW).
Tree Swallow: max 1000 NMWMA (MR) 10 Sep (DBen); last 19 SCNP 22 Oct (KH).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 NMWMA West Shore Trail 8 Oct (DK); last 2 NMWMA Guy Baldassarre Marsh 21 Oct (GDa).
Purple Martin: max 500 NMWMA West Shore Trail 10 Sep; last BB-ES 19 Sep (MGi).
Barn Swallow: max 85 HB 12 Sep (AGu); last 3 BB 16 Oct (WMo).
Cliff Swallow: last 2 HB 12 Sep (AGu).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr LSP 2 Sep (DM); max 38 Webster Arboretum 9 Oct (AGa).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 57 BB-WS 23 Oct (AGu, MGi, CW).

Bohemian Waxwing: arr and max 8 Whiting Rd Nature Pres T Webster 15 Nov (AGa).
Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Whiting Rd Nature Pres T Webster 11 Nov (SG).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last BB-ES 30 Oct (MGi, AGu).

House Wren: last Maxwell Bay T Sodus 11 Oct (MPr).

Brown Thrasher: last Lake Shore Marshes WMA 20 Oct (TL).

Veery: last Grandview Ln T Greece 24 Sep (KGr).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 Island Cottage Woods 7 Sep (RSp); 54 b BBBO; last BB-ES 11 Oct (KSc).

Swainson's Thrush: last b BBBO 20 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: arr 2 BB Burger P 15 Sep (JaG, RR).
Wood Thrush: last Webster Arboretum and DEP 2 Oct (AGa, JSl).

American Pipit: arr SPt 7 Sep (GC); max 60 Jones Bridge Rd T Perry 23 Oct (JKi).

Evening Grosbeak: arr HB 2 Sep (AGu); max 16 Whiting Rd Nature Pres 29 Oct (NU).
Pine Grosbeak: arr Hogan Pt Rd T Hilton 14 Nov (DT).
Common Redpoll: arr HB (AGu) & BB-ES 11 Nov (MGi).
Red Crossbill: arr and max 17 HB 5 Nov (AGu).
White-winged Crossbill: no reports!
Pine Siskin: arr HB (AGu) & SCNP 30 Sep (RCl); max 300 Payne Beach 30 Oct (CW).

Lapland Longspur: arr HB 24 Sep (AGu); max 30 Jones Bridge Rd T Perry 5 Nov (JKi).
Snow Bunting: arr Sodus Bay Old Ridge Rd T Sodus 18 Oct (TL); max 120 Jones Bridge Rd T Perry 20 Nov (JKi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: last SCNP 23 Oct (AGu, MGi).
Fox Sparrow: arr Webster P 8 Oct (CK); max 14 MP Quaker Pd 19 Nov (NU).
American Tree Sparrow: arr RGE Corridor Trail T Gates (JaB).
Dark-eyed Junco: arr Island Cottage Woods, T of Greece, MONR, 15 Sep (PaM); max 150 BB-ES 3 Oct (LS).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr SCNP 15 Sep (GL); max 55 SCNP 12 Oct (JMi & LMa).
White-throated Sparrow: arr Beechwood SP 7 Sep (GC); max 140 Webster Arboretum 9 Oct (AGa); 482 b 15-30 Sep BBBO.
Vesper Sparrow: last Moscow Rd T Hamlin 23 Oct (LyB).
Nelson's Sparrow: no records!
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr b BBBO 8 Sep; last LPd 30 Oct (CW, JeB).
Eastern Towhee: last Cornwall Pres T Williamson 1 Nov (AGu, MGu).

Bobolink: last HB 15 Sep (AGu).
Eastern Meadowlark: last Doran Rd T Lima 5 Nov (DT).
Baltimore Oriole: last Brocton St Rochester 7 Oct (JD).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 660 ED 23 Oct (CW).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 105 Pratt Rd T Sodus 16 Sep (RCl,).
Rusty Blackbird: arr 9 NMWMA (MR) 10 Sep (RSp, BG); max 130 Pratt Rd T Sodus 8 Oct (TL).
Common Grackle: max 900 Leicester Rd T Leicester 19 Sep (MW).

Ovenbird: last b BBBO 8 Oct.
Northern Waterthrush: total b BBBO 16 1-22 Sep; last b BBBO 22 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Beechwood SP 18 Sep (JaM).
Black-and-white Warbler: last IB-W 12 Oct (RM).
Tennessee Warbler: last IB-W 14 Oct (JMi).
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Grandview Ln T Greece (KGa) & MP Quaker Pd 17 (PaM); last High Acres Nature Area, T of Perinton, MONR, 29 Oct (GS).
Nashville Warbler: total b 20 BBBO Sep; last IB-W 14 Oct (JMi).
Connecticut Warbler: total b 5 BBBO Sep; 10 Regional records; last M (OW) (MGi) & Beechwood SP 18 Sep (JaM).
Mourning Warbler: last BB Burger P 15 Sep (JaG, RRe).
Common Yellowthroat: last HB 5 Nov (GH).
Hooded Warbler: last Cummings Nature Center T Naples 24 Sep (RB, NK).
American Redstart: total b 60 BBBO 1-27 Sep; last Cook/Redman Rd T Hamlin 29-30 Oct (AGu, CW), very late.

Cape May Warbler: last BB-ES 4 Oct (JMi).
Cerulean Warbler: last NMWMA (VDS) 10 Sep (RZ).
Northern Parula: last NMWMA West Shore Trail 4 Oct (DK).
Magnolia Warbler: total 137 b BBBO 1-30 Sep; last M (OW) 10 Oct (MM).
Bay-breasted Warbler: total b 52 BBBO 1-30 Sep; last Beech SP 14 Oct (TL).
Blackburnian Warbler: last M (OW) (NU).
Yellow Warbler: last BB-ES 21 Sep (GF).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last TPP 24 Sep (LBi, RCl).
Blackpoll Warbler: total b 341 BBBO 1-30 Sep; last BB-ES 16 Oct (JaG, RRe).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last b BBBO 15 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr Grandview Ln T Greece 6 Sep (KGr); last b BBBO 22 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last IB-W 12 Oct (RM).
Canada Warbler: last Grandview Ln T Greece 14 Sep (KGr).
Wilson's Warbler: total b 13 BBBO 6-16 Sep; last Sandra L. Frankel Nature P 1 Oct (AS).

Scarlet Tanager: last BB Manitou Beach Pres 11 Oct (JMi).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last West Ave T Naples 10 Oct (TT).
Indigo Bunting: last SCNP 22 Oct (NK).
Dickcissel: HB 16 Oct (AGu); Cook Rd and Redman Rd area T Hamlin (AGu, CW).

The reports for **Regions 3, 4, and 5,** were published in the previous issue, Vol. 73, No.1.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The fall started out cool and dry and ended warm and wet. Watertown's mean temperature for September was 61.2° F, or 1.5° below normal, with just 1.8" of precipitation for the month, about 3.7" below normal. October's temperature of 50.2° was just 0.1° below normal, but 7.8" of rain fell that month, making up most of the previous month's deficit. Wet weather continued into November, with another 6.6" of rain falling during the last month of the season. November's mean temperature of 40.4° was 1.5° above normal.

Waterfowl were generally unimpressive. Unusually, no rare geese were reported all season, and goose numbers were low. For yet another autumn the Snow Goose migration seemed to pass Region 6 by. Most dabbling ducks were

present in lower than usual numbers, with Mallard and Northern Pintail numbers seeming especially low. American Wigeon was the exception, especially at Wilson Hill WMA, where up to 1250 were present well into November. The usual *Aythya* rafts were at Wilson Hill, and the maximum Redhead count of 1525 was higher than many years, but the high count of 5400 Ring-necked Ducks was lower than usual at this site. At Black River Bay the highest count for Greater Scaup was just under 1000, a far cry from the multiple thousands that formerly gathered here every fall. As is often the case Nick Leone had the most notable waterfowl sightings of the season, including 422 Black Scoters at Montario Point on 7 October and the fall's only Barrow's Goldeneye at Pillar Point on 23 November.

Until October's rains it had been a very dry year in northern New York, and water levels were low on many streams, ponds, and lakes. Despite seemingly ideal conditions during September shorebird numbers were low throughout the Region. At the end of August the best shorebirding was on the Allen Road pool at Perch River WMA, but access to the prime vantage of this pool ended 31 August at the close of NYSDEC's annual open house. Steve Kelling reported good numbers of Semipalmated Plover and Lesser Yellowlegs here on 1 September, but he seems to have been the only birder to look for shorebirds at this pool after the access restrictions kicked in, so there is no way to know how long good numbers of shorebirds remained at this site. Elsewhere shorebirds were unimpressive throughout the Region until 19 October when Nick Leone found five Hudsonian Godwits at Sherwin Bay, a tally that is high for Region 6 but bested on 22 October when at least eight godwits were present. While looking for the godwits Brian Miller found a Wilson's Phalarope on 19 October and Bill Purcell picked out a Long-billed Dowitcher on 23 October. The excitement continued at Sherwin Bay in November, when on the eleventh Dick Brouse found an **American Avocet**, which unfortunately was only seen on this one day.

The season's noteworthy larids included a Black-legged Kittiwake Nick Leone saw off Montario Point on 7 October and two more Steve Kelling spotted from Tibbets Point on 28 October. The season's only Little Gull was at Guffin Bay on 12 November. Black Vultures seem to be annual in Region 6 now, but the three seen over Colton by Renn Tanner on 24 September appears to be the first report of multiple individuals for Region 6.

The passerine migration was lackluster throughout most of the Region, with few reports of large concentrations of migrants or heavy movements. The main exception was in a patch of successional woodland in the southern part of Fort Drum, where large warbler flocks were consistently observed throughout September and into early October, in a location that seems to routinely hold fall migrants. Some high counts among the foraging flocks here include 32 Tennessee Warblers and 62 Cape May Warblers on 6 September and 26 Bay-breasted Warblers on 14 September. Some songbirds seemed scarce everywhere, notably Orange-crowned Warbler, a species that had seemed to be increasing steadily during fall for several years through 2021, but for which there were only two

reports this fall. Similarly, following several years of near exponential growth in fall Philadelphia Vireo numbers, this year's total was unexceptional.

Several species of irruptive finch were present throughout the Region, but with the exception of Evening Grosbeak were generally scarce. A few Evening Grosbeaks had moved into the Region in August, but there were no reports this season until 2 October, and by November grosbeaks were being reported at feeders throughout Region 6, with some lucky birders reporting 30-50 in their yards. Pine Siskins were also fairly widespread but in much lower numbers, with just one or two individuals at most locations. There were just four Red Crossbill reports, including a high count of four at Whetstone Gulf State Park, and a single Common Redpoll at Coles Creek State Park on 26 November was the only report of the season.

For the season I received reports of 221 species, five below the most recent ten-year mean for the fall season. Surely the highlight of the season was the American Avocet at Sherwin Bay, along with the flurry of late season shorebirds at this location. The abundance of Evening Grosbeaks was another high point enjoyed more broadly across Region 6.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black Ri Bay; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Shores Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **GPSP** – Grass Pt SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JEFF** – Jefferson Co; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard's Landing Trail, T

Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **ShBy** – Sherwin Bay; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **TP** – Tibbets Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

Snow Goose: singles T Croghan 9 Sep, T Watertown 24 Sep to 2 Oct, FD 28 Sep; max 550 T Canton 26 Nov, only report of more than 55.
Brant: arr TP 8 Oct; max 1360 TP 27 Oct.
Canada Goose: max 9500 T Oswegatchie 1 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 56 GPSP 27 Oct.
Trumpeter Swan: max 20 PRWMA 28 Nov.
Tundra Swan: max 250 BRB 26 Nov; up to 30/day WHWMA 25 Nov thru; increasing Lake St. Lawrence.
Wood Duck: max 193 ULLWMA 4 Sep; scarce after 31 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 100 PRWMA 21 Sep; last report 76 ULLWMA 16 Oct.
Northern Shoveler: max 150 PRWMA 25 Sep (C. Tiemann, high); last 2 PRWMA 13 Nov.
Gadwall: max 34 WHWMA 6 Nov.
American Wigeon: max 1250 WHWMA 13 Nov.
Mallard: max 390 ShBy 29 Nov.
American Black Duck: max 125 PilPt 12 Nov.
Northern Pintail: max 140 WHWMA 8 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 268 WP 24 Sep; last 11 ShBy 13 Nov.
Canvasback: TP 28 Oct (S. Kelling); 1-2/day WHWMA 4-12 Nov (mob); max 10 SLR T Hammond 23 Nov (E. Buckler); only reports.
Redhead: max 1525 WHWMA 13 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 5400 WHWMA 6 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 990 BRB 12 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 62 PRWMA 12 Nov.
Surf Scoter: max 11 WBSP 27 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 58 WBSP 24 Oct.
Black Scoter: max 422 MP 7 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 80 SBSP 12 Nov.
Common Goldeneye: RWSP 1 Oct (mob) only report before 27 Oct.
Barrow's Goldeneye: PilPt 23 Nov (N. Leone) only report.
Hooded Merganser: max 45 CCSP 6 Nov.
Common Merganser: max 600 SLR T Hammond 25 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 45 SLR T Massena 30 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 10 WHWMA 6 Nov where 3 lingered to 13 Nov; 5 additional reports 1-2 each.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 95 ULLWMA 16 Sep; last FD 17 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 6 Pt. Salubrious 29 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 5 RWSP 29 Oct.

Common Nighthawk: max 7 T Carthage 27 Sep.

Virginia Rail: last AFWMA & PRWMA 8 Oct.
Sora: last 2 ULLWMA 13 Oct.
Common Gallinule: last 4 PRWMA 12 Oct.
American Coot: max 115 WHWMA 6 Nov; only loc with more than 7 ind.

Sandhill Crane: 8 reports 1-2 each; last T Watertown 11 Nov.

AMERICAN AVOCET (R6): ShBy 11 Nov (R. Brouse, mob, photos!).

Black-bellied Plover: max 2 ED, WHWMA, WP 24 Sep & LWMA 5 Oct; 6 additional reports of singles to 8 Oct; scarce.
American Golden-Plover: ED 7 Sep;
Killdeer: max 48 RLT 5 Sep; last MP 21 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: max 35 PRWMA 1 Sep; last CCSP 9 Oct.

Hudsonian Godwit: 5 ShBy 19 Oct increased to max **8** same loc 22 Oct & where last 30 Oct (N. Leone, high).
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 ED 7 Sep where 1 still present to 9 Sep; only reports.
Sanderling: 3 RLT 4 Sep; max 10 ED 7 to 9 Sep; only reports.
Baird's Sandpiper: ED 9 Sep (J. Bolsinger) only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 4 WP 5 Sep low.
White-rumped Sandpiper: ED 7-8 Sep & CCSP 8 Sep only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 9 WP 24 Sep; last ShBy 19 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 19 ED 10 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: ShBy 23 Oct (B. Purcell, B. Miller) possibly same ind reported as Short-billed Dowitcher 19 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last ED 17 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: last ULLWMA 23 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 75 PRWMA 1 Sep; last 3 ShBy 24 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 T Louisville 18 Sep & ShBy 20 Oct; last CV 2 Nov.
Wilson's Phalarope: WHWMA 15 Oct (JSB); ShBy 19 Oct (B. Miller); only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: MP 7 Oct (N. Leone); 2 TP 28 Oct (S. Kelling).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 28 Guffin Bay 30 Oct.
Little Gull: ad Guffin Bay 12 Nov (JSB).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad RLT 24 Sep (JSB); TP 8 Oct (mob).
Caspian Tern: last CV 26 Sep.
Common Tern: last T Hammond 23 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: max 19 PilPt 23 Nov (N. Leone) high.
Common Loon: max 26 CCSP 4 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: scarce after 13 Nov.

American Bittern: last T Theresa 27 Oct.
Great Egret: max 76 ULLWMA 11 Sep; last 7 T Potsdam 23 Oct.
Green Heron: last Sherwin Bay 24 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 19 ULLWMA 11 Sep; last 5 ULLWMA 13 Oct.

BLACK VULTURE (R6): 3 T Colton 24 Sep (R. Tanner) rare but increasing throughout.
Turkey Vulture: 19 HH 12 Nov high for so late; last T Lowville 20 Nov.

Northern Goshawk: FD 14 Sep.
Red-shouldered Hawk: last T Alexandria 26 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: last ICNC 15 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr T Brownville 25 Oct.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 5 reports all N JEFF.
Snowy Owl: T Lyme 17 Nov only report.
Long-eared Owl: Pinckney SF 4 Oct (R. Spahn).
Short-eared Owl: ShBy 24 Oct (R. Brouse); T. Denmark 22 Nov (M. Roggie).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 9 FD 8 Sep where last 20 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last KC 20 Nov.

Merlin: 35+ reports.
Peregrine Falcon: T Lyme 22 Sep; PRWMA 8 Oct; T Croghan 24 Oct; 7

additional reports from sites where virtually resident.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last ED 17 Sep.
Eastern Kingbird: last ICNC 11 Sep.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: FD 1 Sep.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: last BPWMA 2 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: FD 14 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: last 2 MM 10 Sep (V. Rojas, J. Donovan).
Least Flycatcher: last WHWMA 30 Sep.
Eastern Phoebe: last FD 31 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last ULLWMA 11 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last ED 16 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 5 FD 14 Sep; last RLT 24 Sep; many fewer reports than the previous fall.
Warbling Vireo: last FD 12 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last RRT 4 Oct.

Northern Shrike: arr FD 28 Oct.

Canada Jay: max 4 MM 15 Oct; additional reports from High Falls Loop Trail, Horseshoe L & Dead Creek Flow.
Common Raven: max 24 ShBy 30 Oct.

Horned Lark: max 150 T Lawrence 20 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 8 Sep; max 51 FD 3 Oct; last T Montague 3 Nov.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 16 Sep; max 28 T Fine 17 Sep.

Cedar Waxwing: max 32 T Brownville 11 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: T West Turin 2 Sep only report.

House Wren: last ED 11 Oct.
Winter Wren: 1st obvious migrant RRT 24 Sep; migrant numbers seemed low.
Sedge Wren: last FD 29 Sep.
Marsh Wren: PRWMA 12 Nov (JSB) & T Lisbon 27 Nov (JSB) only reports after 13 Oct.
Carolina Wren: reports from 5 loc.

Gray Catbird: last FD 2 Nov only report after 24 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: T Pamelia 20 Nov (J. Harvill) only report after 2 Oct.
Northern Mockingbird: T Henderson 12 Nov (JSB) only report.

Eastern Bluebird: max 25 T Lowville 25 Oct.
Veery: last CV 9 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: last FD 4 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: T Dekalb & SUNY ESF Ranger School T Fine 11 Nov; MP 21 Nov; only reports after Oct.
Wood Thrush: last FD 22 Sep.

American Pipit: max 60 MP 21 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr T Canton 2 Oct; max 50 T West Turin 18 Nov; good flight.
Common Redpoll: CCSP 26 Nov (JSB) only report.
Red Crossbill: 4 widely scattered reports between 8 Oct & 6 Nov; max 4 Whetstone Gulf Rese 4 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr ULLWMA 17 Sep; widespread in low numbers; max 5 T Croghan 9 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: T West Turin 2 Nov only report.
Snow Bunting: arr WHWMA 27 Oct; max 52 CV 19 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 70 FD 6 Sep low at this site; last T Alexandria 21 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last 2 WHWMA 27 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr FD 4 Oct; last T Champion 24 Nov.
American Tree Sparrow: arr FD 28 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 16 Sep; max 210 RWSP 8 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Canton 25 Sep; last T Croghan 10 Nov.
White-throated Sparrow: max 128 FD 4 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 37 FD 2 Sep; last T Clayton 9 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: last T Hounsfield 24 Oct.
Song Sparrow: scarce after 31 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last T Alexandria 23 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after 12 Oct.
Eastern Towhee: last T Clayton 23 Oct.

Bobolink: last FD 21 Sep.
Eastern Meadowlark: last 10 T Lyme 22 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last FD 8 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 5700 ULLWMA 11 Sep.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 120 T Waddington 20 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr RRT 23 Sep; max 1910 PRWMA 8 Oct; last KC & T Dekalb 11 Nov.
Common Grackle: max 1200 CV 3 Oct.

Ovenbird: last 2 T Potsdam 25 Sep.
Northern Waterthrush: last LWMA 9 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last FD 2 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last FD 8 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last FD 20 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: max 32 FD 6 Sep; last T Croghan 18 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: FD 5 Oct (JSB); RWSP 8 Oct (mob); only reports.
Nashville Warbler: last PtPen 11 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: last FD 15 Sep.
Common Yellowthroat: T Lisbon 26-27 Nov (JSB) only report after 8 Oct.
American Redstart: last FD 20 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: max 62 FD 6 Sep; RRT 16 Oct (JSB) only report after 28 Sep.
Northern Parula: last PRWMA 8 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last Saddlemire Trail T Canton 7 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 26 FD 14 Sep; last FD 29 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last FD 26 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last FD 12 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Saddlemire Trail T Canton 18 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last T Colton 14 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 28 FD 12 Sep; last T Croghan 26 Oct.
Pine Warbler: FD 14 Nov only report after 6 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 313 FD 28 Sep; last T Norfolk 2 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last ED 10 Oct.
Canada Warbler: only FD report 8 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last LWMA 18 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last T Heuvelton 1 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ICNC 12-15 Oct only report after 28 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last T West Turin 10 Sep.

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Throughout the Region, September's temperatures hovered near normal, deviating less than a degree in either direction. However, unlike the temperatures, rainfall was variable throughout Region 7. The northern tier, the Champlain Valley, and the High Peaks averaged 4-5" as did the eastern half of Hamilton Co. The western half of Hamilton Co. averaged 5-6". A small area around Lake Placid was the wettest with 6-7" of precipitation.

October overall was drier than September with most of Region 7 receiving 2-3" of rain. The extreme northeast of Hamilton County and the northeast half of Franklin County were drier still with only 1-2". Only the High Peaks area got 3-4" of precipitation. Once again, the average temperatures for the Region were nearly uniform and deviated from normal less than a degree in either direction. Only the northern half of Franklin and Clinton Counties were 1-3° above normal.

November was warmer than normal throughout the Region. The entire Region averaged 3-5° above normal, except for a small area in southern Clinton and northwestern Essex Counties, which was only 1-3° above normal. Precipitation (melted equivalent) was 3-4" in most of the Region. Remnants of the 5–6-foot lake effect snowfall totals that were featured in the national news may have been responsible for the increase to 4-5" of precipitation observed in the western parts of Hamilton County. Scattered areas of Clinton County, mostly in the north, got only 2-3".

On 1 September the level of Lake Champlain stood at 93.82'. It then dropped to a seasonal low of 93.61' on 19 September. From there it rose in a rollercoaster-like series of highs to 94.60', an unusually narrow range. These levels produced a lackluster shorebird migration with only a smattering of sightings for a limited number of species over the length of the lake.

There were six reports of Pine Grosbeak in Region 7 this season, which is consistent with the Winter Finch Forecast's (WFF) expectation that this species would stay put east of Lake Superior. The forecast also was that White-winged Crossbill could be expected in northern New York. This season there were four reports of this species with no more than two individuals at a time. Red Crossbill, a resident, was reported from dozens of locations with up to 18 individuals counted. The WFF also expected small numbers of Types 1, 2, and 3 to be mixed in with this year's migrants; however, none were detected this season. Purple Finch, also a resident, was reported in good numbers from scores of sites. Both

redpolls conformed to the prediction that they were likely to stay put. In Region 7 there was only one report of Common Redpoll, thus not surprisingly, there were no reports of Hoary Redpoll. Also expected to stay put and a resident, Pine Siskin was reported from a couple dozen locations. For Evening Grosbeak, the expected movement south was documented by nearly 250 reports which included reports from all four counties and up to 110 individuals at a single location (21 November, Harrietstown). In the east Bohemian Waxwing was expected to remain in the boreal forest but was found at 18 sites with a maximum of 175 individuals.

Rotary Lake, the pond situated at the center of the Malone Memorial Recreation Park, has well established itself as ground zero for migratory geese in Region 7. The lake serves as a night roost and haven for many thousands of Snow Geese and Canada Geese as they take advantage of the available forage within the vast surrounding corn fields of northern Franklin County. In the past, the location has held rare western palearctic geese and accounted for most of the Region's high counts of other scarce but regularly occurring species this fall. At least two **Ross's Geese** lingered for nearly a month along with two **Greater White-fronted Geese**. Based on careful study of key field marks, it's likely the white-fronted geese originated from one of the North American populations. Rotary Lake also held the new Region high count for **Cackling Geese** with a total of 14 tallied on 26 October. Also in late October, an apparent **Greater White-fronted x Canada Goose (hybrid)** was first discovered and subsequently documented with field notes, photographs, and video footage.

A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** near the border with Canada in November was only the third fall record for Region 7. More common in spring, **Tufted Duck** was reported from Lake Champlain for the second fall in a row and only the third time in the past ten years. An established breeder in the area, **Sandhill Crane** lingered in the Tupper Lake area into September.

The fall shorebird season yielded the typical assemblage of species with the addition of some scarce but regularly occurring highlights. Clinton and Essex Counties each hosted single records of **American Golden-Plover,** both of which were discovered along the Lake Champlain shoreline. The exposed sandy delta at the mouth of the Boquet River in Willsboro was fairly productive and held four **Baird's Sandpipers,** one individual shy of the tying single-site record for Region 7. A few **White-rumped Sandpipers**, less reliable than other regularly occurring shorebird species, were also discovered along Lake Champlain this season.

The **Black-legged Kittiwake** sighted off Willsboro Point on 27 September was the Region's first since 2003. While this species is unquestionably scarce, the paucity of fall reports from the shores of Lake Champlain is presumably linked to the lack of dedicated lake watches from strategic points along the lakeshore. In addition, most sections of the New York shoreline are in private ownership, therefore limiting access to the theoretical "dream locations" such as Split Rock Point and other pinch points within the basin. A **Little Gull** spotted at Cole Bay was the first since 2020. On Lake Champlain, this species presence appears to be directly correlated to Bonaparte's Gull abundance. Therefore, the two-year

absence of Little Gull was likely due to the recent summer/fall decline of the Bonaparte's Gulls.

A lone **Black Tern** discovered inside Willsboro Bay was only the third fall eBird record for Region 7. Written records from the last half of the last century have this tern lingering to at least 10 September at its once established breeding sites in the marshes on the south shore of Lake Alice and at the base of Point au Fer.

Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were documented in Region 7 this fall with the first report of an adult along the shores of Lake Champlain in Clinton County at Cumberland Head on 16 October. Next, a juvenile was discovered on 27 October in Franklin County in the Onchiota area visiting a suet feeder at a private residence. The last report for this species was that of another juvenile from Paradox in Essex County approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Onchiota and five days later. A great showing for a species that is remarkably scarce throughout Region 7.

Rare to begin with, the **Cave Swallow** found at Crown Point State Historic Site was only the second record for the Region and the first record for Essex County. This sighting coincided with a small influx of Cave Swallows that was first noted in the Great Lakes Region. Apparently very rare in fall, a **Sedge Wren** was discovered on Willsboro Point on 10 September in a small hayfield. Remarkably, this is only the second fall season record of this species in Region 7. According to Geoffrey Carleton's *Birds of Essex County, New York*, Third Edition, the first record of Sedge Wren came 47 years prior on 3 September 1975 in nearby Wadhams. The precise locality of that record is not mentioned. A **Dickcissel** reported from Piseco Airport was only the second eBird record, but there are five prior Essex County records including a specimen in the SUNY Plattsburgh collection.

A **Nelson's Sparrow** was documented in Essex County for the first time in 39 years at the mouth of the Boquet River in Willsboro. There is only one prior Essex County record of this species which took place in Westport from 23-24 October, 1983 (NYSARC # 1983-24-A/D/*Kingbird* 34 (4). The specific locality of this sighting is not mentioned; however, associated comments in the individual NYSARC submissions strongly suggest the bird was found at or near the Hoisington Brook Outlet. The 2022 Willsboro record involved a single individual discovered at the confluence of the Boquet River and Lake Champlain along the fringe of an exposed emergent wetland and slightly drier upland habitat, where the bird fed on dried seed heads of soft-stemmed bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*). A detailed description with accompanying photographs strongly suggests this individual as *A. n. altera*, one of the two interior-type subspecies. Coincidentally, the 2022 Nelson's Sparrow, also apparently of interior origins, was found in very similar habitat to the 1983 individual, according to descriptions in the reports.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFT – Art Farm Trail, ESSE; **AHR** – Angier Hill Rd, ESSE; **AM** – Ausable Marsh, CLIN; **AP** – Ausable Pt, CLIN; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog, FRAN; **BBS** – Bloomingdale Bog South, FRAN; **BPd** – Burma Pd; **BRM** – Boquet Ri Mouth, ESSE; **BWB** – Bulwagga Bay, ESSE; **CBM** – Cumberland Bay McDonald's, CLIN; **CLIN** – Clinton Co; **CoB** – Cole Bay, ESSE; **Co-FL** – Atlas breeding code; **CP** – Crown Pt, ESSE; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands, CLIN; **ESSE** – Essex Co; **EFT** – Essex Farm Trail, ESSE; **FRAN** – Franklin Co; **HAMI** – Hamilton Co; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet, ESSE; **HMt** – Hurricane Mt, ESSE; **Inl** – Inlet, HAMI; **KB** – Kings Bay, CLIN; **KN** – Keene, ESSE; **LAWMA** – Lake Alice WMA, CLIN; **LCl** – Lake Clear, FRAN; **LCo** – Lake Colby, FRAN; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh, ESSE; **MMRP** – Malone Memorial Recreation P, FRAN; **MtM** – Mount Marcy, ESSE; **NP** – Noblewood P, ESSE; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd, FRAN; **PAp** – Piseco Airport, HAMI; **PCB** – Plattsburgh City Beach, CLIN; **PH** – Port Henry, ESSE; **PHP** – Port Henry Pier, ESSE; **PK** – Port Kent, ESSE; **PL** – Piseco L, HAMI; **PS** – Paul Smiths, FRAN; **PaR** – Point Au Roche SP, CLIN; **SL** – Saranac L, FRAN; **SLB** – Silver L Bog, CLIN; **Spec** – Speculator, HAMI; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth, CLIN; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry Boat Launch, ESSE; **VV** – Vermontville; FRAN; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp, ESSE; **WB** – Whallon Bay, ESSE; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd, ESSE; **WD** – Wilcox Dock, CLIN; **WF** – Whiteface Mt, ESSE; **WI** – Willsboro, ESSE; **WMO** – Lake opposite Wickham Marsh, ESSE; **WP** –

Westport, ESSE; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt, ESSE; **WRF** – Willsboro Research Farm, ESSE; **XAB** – Old Air Force Base, CLIN.

Snow Goose: arr 18 MMRP 24 Sep; max 7000 PaR 27 Nov (KCo).
Ross's Goose: 2 MMRP 16 Oct-7 Nov (SR, TL); *intro.*
Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 MRP 17 Oct-7 Nov (RHn, DHR, ph), western-type; Pt au Fer, CLIN 24 Nov (SR), subspecies undetermined; *intro.*
Greater White fronted x Canada Goose (hybrid): MRP 20-26 Oct (RHn), photo; *intro.*
Brant: 30 Inl 8 Nov (GLe).
Cackling Goose: arr BRM 23 Sep (DHR); max 14 MMRP 26 Oct (DHR); *intro.*
Canada Goose: max 10,000 MMRP 30 Oct.
TRUMPETER SWAN (R7): 2 Sulphur Spring Rd, FRAN 3 Nov (JB, HW), *intro.*
Wood Duck: max 39 LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 35 LCTM 20 Sep (EG).
Northern Shoveler: 3 CP 21 Sep (SR).
Gadwall: 6 Fish Creek Pd, FRAN 2 Sep (YR).
American Wigeon: max 25 CPSHS 21 Sep (SR) .
American Black Duck: 30 CP 17 Sep (SR).
Northern Pintail: 6 KB 8 Oct (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 25 LCTM 20 Sep (EG).
Redhead: 3 PHP 24 Sep (SR); 22 Chazy Ri, CLIN 20 Oct (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 2 PS 23 Sep (LK); 175 Penfield Pd, ESSE 5 Nov (SR).
TUFTED DUCK (R7): PK 20 Oct (SR); *intro.*
Greater Scaup: 600 PK 23 Oct (NM).
Lesser Scaup: 370 PK 6 Oct (SR).
Greater/Lesser Scaup: 5000 WMO 24 Nov (SR).
Surf Scoter: max 7 WMO 3 Nov (SR).
White-winged Scoter: Har 2 Oct (MB).
Black Scoter: 2 BWB 10 Oct (SR); 22 PL 2 Nov (GD).
Long-tailed Duck: 6 WD 24 Nov (SR).
Bufflehead: 47 CP 9 Nov (DHR).
Common Goldeneye: 58 WMO 24 Nov (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 11 SRM 14 Oct (JJ).
Common Merganser: 30 AP 21 Nov (SB).
Red-breasted Merganser: 55 CoB 25 Oct (SR).
Ruddy Duck: max 3 CP 27 Oct-9 Nov (SR, DHR).

Wild Turkey: 24 Gabriels, FRAN 24 Sep (NM).
Ruffed Grouse: 6 WP 24 Sep (JG).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 LAWMA 8 Oct (SR).

Pied-billed Grebe: 6 KB 23 Sep (DS).
Horned Grebe: 19 WMO 24 Nov (SR).
Red-necked Grebe: 4 WB 22 Oct (SR).

Black-billed Cuckoo: BB 11 Sep (CL, RH).

Common Nighthawk: 35 LCTM 10 Sep (AB); CP 7 Oct, late.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: Clintonville, CLIN 10 Sep (DH).

Chimney Swift: 2 LAWMA 3 Sep (RH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 4 Onchiota, FRAN 5 Sep (JB).

Virginia Rail: 2 CR 8 Sep (SR), Co-FL.
Sora: LCTM 8 Sep (EG).
Common Gallinule: 3 CR 8 Sep (SR); 5 LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
American Coot: 4 Putnam Creek, ESSE 4 Nov (KM).

Sandhill Crane: 3 Tupper L, FRAN 4 Sep (StR).

Black-bellied Plover: Putts Creek, ESSE 12 Sep (SR); CP 26 Nov (mob), late.
American Golden-Plover: PCB 2 Sep (DHR); HBO 22 Sep-1 Oct (SR).
Killdeer: 13 HBO 8 Sep (SR).
Semipalmated Plover: PCB 2 Sep (DHR); 14 BRM 5 Sep (DHR).

Sanderling: 2 NP 14 Sep (SR).
Dunlin: NP 6 Oct (SR).
Baird's Sandpiper: max 4 BRM 1-14 Sep (DHR, SR); LCTM 17 Sep (AB).
Least Sandpiper: max 7 LCTM 20 Sep (EG).
White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 LCTM 10 Sep (AB); CBM 10 Oct (DHR).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 CR 8 Sep (SR); LCTM 17 Sep (AB); 3 CBM 10 Oct (DHR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 4 LCTM 10 Sep (AB).
American Woodcock: 22 reps across all 4 counties; Carpenter's Flats 22 Nov (DR), late.
Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Putts Creek ESSE 12 Sep (SR) and 3 LCTM 17 Se (AB); AP 22 Nov (DR) and AP 28 Nov (LMc), late.
Spotted Sandpiper: 2 PaR 1 Sep (JH).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 CLIN, 1 FRAN, 6 ESSE, max 2 HBO 1 Sep (DHR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 CR 8 Sep (SR).
Greater Yellowlegs: max 18 NP 14 Sep (SR).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R7): Pumpkin Reef, ESSE 27 Sep (DHR); *intro.*
Bonaparte's Gull: ESSE max 75 HBO 25 Sep (BMc, JS, CV); CLIN max 215 Gilbert Brook Marina 8 Oct (SR).
Little Gull: CoB 27 Oct (SR); *intro.*
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 SRM 8 Sep (SR); WD 26 & 28 Oct (BK).
Great Black-backed Gull: 14 SRM 5 Nov (DHR).
Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: BRM 1-5 Sep (DHR).
Caspian Tern: 6 TFBL 3 Sep (SR).
Black Tern: WPt 5 Sep (DHR).

Red-throated Loon: 3 PHP 24 Oct (SR); 8 CP 7 Nov (SR).
Common Loon: 3 LCo 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL; 44 LCl 28 Sep (NM).

Double-crested Cormorant: 180 PHP 24 Oct (SR).

American Bittern: 3 LCTM 8 Sep (EG).
Least Bittern: LCTM Sep 8 (EG).
Great Blue Heron: 6 AP 22 Sep (SR).
Great Egret: 14 LCTM 17 Sep (AB).
Green Heron: 2 LCTM 8 Sep (EG).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 LCTM 10 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Black Vulture: max 21 Ticonderoga, ESSE 26 Oct (SR).

Osprey: 5 LCTM 1 Sep (SH).

GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): Raquette L, HAMI 1 Oct (GL, ph); OPR 27 Nov (CV, BMc, ph).
Northern Harrier: 2 VV 10 Nov (TB).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: WF 4 Nov (RHn).
Cooper's Hawk: 2 PS 2 Sep (JL).
Bald Eagle: 4 PaR 7 Nov (BK).
Red-shouldered Hawk: LAWMA 15 Sep (BK).

Broad-winged Hawk: 2 MtM 17 Sep (AF).
Red-tailed Hawk (*abieticola*): WPt 7 Oct (DHR).
Rough-legged Hawk: 2 KN 1 Nov (LM).

Eastern Screech Owl: 3 ESSE, 2 HAMI, 1 CLIN.
Great Horned Owl: 3 ESSE, 2 FRAN, 1 CLIN.
Barred Owl: reps in all 4 counties.
Short-eared Owl: 5 AHR 22 Nov (DHR).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: WPt 3 Oct (DHR); 4 Inl 10 Oct (GLe).

Belted Kingfisher: 4 AP 22 Sep (SR).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R7): Cumberland Head, CLIN 16 Oct (SJ, BK); Rainbow L, FRAN 27-28 Oct (m. ob.); Paradox, ESSE 2-3 Nov (EG, SR); *intro.*
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 LCTM 17 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 BBS 11 Sep (BJ, JJ).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 VV 9 Sep (DHR).
Northern Flicker: 3 PS 2 Sep (JL).
Pileated Woodpecker: common and widespread throughout Reg; max 4 Connery Pd Br 4 Sep (MCh, GlCh).

American Kestrel: 7 WI 21 Sep (DHR).
Merlin: 2 CR 8 Sep (SR).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 WF 15 Sep (LB).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Newcomb, ESSE 13 Sep (LB).
Eastern Kingbird: PaR 1 Sep (JH).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: LCTM 17 Sep (AB).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: last Port Henry, ESSE 30 Sep (SR).
Least Flycatcher: Fawn L, HAMI 14 Sep (CK).
Eastern Phoebe: 6 PL 4 Sep (CK).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 LCTM 8 Sep (EG).
Blue-headed Vireo: 3 PS 17 Sep (EJ).
Philadelphia Vireo: WRS 15 Sep (DHR).
Warbling Vireo: 4 CR 8 Sep (SR).
Red-eyed Vireo: 5 LCo 5 Sep (AB).

Northern Shrike: only 3 reps; WPt 30 Oct (DHR); Cemetery Rd Wetlands, ESSE; 15 Nov (DHR); AFT 15 Nov (SR).

Canada Jay: 7 BB 29n Nov (BJ).
Fish Crow: 2 Plattsburgh, CLIN 9 Sep (BK), Co-FL.
Common Raven: 16 KN 15 Oct (LM).

Boreal Chickadee: 7 WF 4 Nov (RHn).
Tufted Titmouse: 6 LCTM 10 Sep (AB).

Horned Lark: 150 Reynolds Rd, CLIN 24 Nov (SR).

Bank Swallow: 2 BWB 5 Sep (SR).
Tree Swallow: max 60 BRM 1 Sep (DHR).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
Barn Swallow: 20 LCTM 8 Sep (EG).
Cliff Swallow: 2 BRM 1 Sep (DHR).
CAVE SWALLOW: 2 CP 6 Nov (SR); *intro.*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 12 Tupper L FRAN 3 Oct (JC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 12 PS 16 Oct (JHa).

Bohemian Waxwing: 9 PS 14 Nov (BMc); 175 SL 26 Nov (JMc).
Cedar Waxwing: 35 EW 8 Sep (JG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 18 PS 13 Sep (NM).

Brown Creeper: 3 SLB 1 Sep (JL).

House Wren: 2 AFT 1 Oct (SR).
Winter Wren: 4 Malone, FRAN 13 Oct (A&SA-L).
Sedge Wren: rare in fall: WPt 10 Sep (DHR), *intro.*
Marsh Wren: 6 LCTM 15 Sep (EG).
Carolina Wren: SL 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Gray Catbird: 11 CP 21 Sep (SR).
Brown Thrasher: XAB 22 Sep (SR).
Northern Mockingbird: 2 XAB 22 Sep (SR).
Eastern Bluebird: 22 WI 25 Sep (DHR).
Veery: SLB 1 Sep (JL).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Duane, FRAN 17 Sep (RHn); Azure Mt, FRAN 11 Oct (RHn).
Bicknell's Thrush: MtM 17 Sep (AF).
Swainson's Thrush: 3 BB 24 Sep (BMc, CV).
Hermit Thrush: 6 WF 9 Sep (TR).

American Pipit: PS 24 Sep (NM); 230 Stetson Rd, CLIN 20 Oct (SR).

Evening Grosbeak: widespread. Reps in all 4 counties. Max 110 Harrietstown, FRAN 21 Nov (EG); *intro.*
Evening Grosbeak (type 3): Inl 5 Oct (PM).
Pine Grosbeak: 5 Sabattis Bog, HAMI 21 Nov (CD).
Purple Finch: 11 KN 5 Sep (LM).
Common Redpoll: 2 LCl 4 Nov (GD).
Red Crossbill: 18 SL 30 Oct (RHn).
Red Crossbill type 12: OPR 26 Nov (JMc).
White-winged Crossbill: Madawaska Flow, FRAN 27 Nov (LS).
Pine Siskin: max 8 Inl 27 Oct (GL).
American Goldfinch: 3 PH 1 Sep (SR), Co-FL; max 33 Plattsburgh 22 Sep (SR).

Lapland Longspur: Uihlein Farm, ESSE 21 Nov (BMc).
Snow Bunting: max 75 CP 9 Nov (DHR).

Chipping Sparrow: max 36 WRF 1 Oct (DHR).
Field Sparrow: WB 22 Oct (WS).
Fox Sparrow: 2 PS 6 Oct (NM).
American Tree Sparrow: WP 8 Oct (JS).
White-crowned Sparrow: AM 24 Sep (BK), early CLIN date.
Vesper Sparrow: 3 PAp 10 Oct (GD).
NELSON'S SPARROW (R7): rare in ESSE, BRM 30 Sep (DHR); *intro.*
Savannah Sparrow: 2 WBR 3 Nov (SR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: AFT 1 Oct (SR).
Swamp Sparrow: 7 BB 30 Sep (NH).
Eastern Towhee: 2 PaR 9 Sep (KA).

Bobolink: CR 8 Sep (SR), late CLIN.
Eastern Meadowlark: 2 Westport, ESSE 11 Oct (NR).
Baltimore Oriole: LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 28 WBR 24 Nov (SR).
Rusty Blackbird: 3 Little Tupper L, FRAN 23 Sep (KS); 15 LAWMA 8 Oct (SR).

Ovenbird: Wilmington, ESSE 24 Sep (MS).
Northern Waterthrush: 2 LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
Blue-winged Warbler: LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
Black-and-white Warbler: CP 21 Sep (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: 2 PaR 5 Sep (DHR); 3 WI 21 Sep (JG).
Orange-crowned Warbler: WRS 6 October (SR); PaR 8 October (SR); WPt 14 October (DHR).
Nashville Warbler: WB 20 Oct (SR), last.

Common Yellowthroat: Spec 14 Oct (CK), last.
American Redstart: EFT 27 Sep (DHR).
Cape May Warbler: LCl 24 Sep (CV).
Northern Parula: Spec 2 Oct (AM), last.
Magnolia Warbler: BB 22 Oct (RHn), last.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 PaR 5 Sep (DHR); 4 PH 9 Sep (SR).
Blackburnian Warbler: Essex, ESSE 24 Sep (AM)
Yellow Warbler: AP 20 Sep (OS).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: WPt 25 Sep (DHR).
Blackpoll Warbler: 10 HMt 1 Oct (EMc).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: PS 1 Oct (GT), last.
Palm Warbler: 10 HMt 1 Oct (EMc).
Pine Warbler: Elizabethtown, ESSE 3 Oct (JG), last.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 32 PS 25 Sep (NM).
Black-throated Green Warbler: LCo 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Canada Warbler: SL 4 Sep (KB).
Wilson's Warbler: SLB 11 Sep (CL); SL 8 Oct (JP).

Scarlet Tanager: WPt 26 Sep (DHR).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4 LCTM 7 Sep (SR).
Indigo Bunting: 2 EFT 27 Sep (DHR).
DICKCISSEL (R7): PAp 10 Oct (GD), *intro.*

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The reports for **Regions 8 and 9** were published in the previous issue, Vol. 73, No.1.

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REGION 10—MARINE

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	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	69.5°	69.2°	+0.3°	68.2°	66.9°	+1.3°
Oct	56.9°	57.9°	-1.0°	56.6°	55.7°	+0.9°
Nov	50.9°	48.0°	+2.9°	48.7°	45.6°	+3.1°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	4.10"	4.31"	-0.21"	2.89"	3.60"	-1.70"
Oct	5.08"	4.38"	+0.70"	5.35"	3.97"	+1.38"
Nov	3.15"	3.58"	-0.43"	2.50"	3.41"	-1.91"

Temperatures across the Region averaged close to normal or slightly higher than average, with the highest deviations later in the season. Precipitation was down slightly in New York City in September and November, but up in October; however, the Islip weather station recorded much more exaggerated variations during those same periods. This season saw no named tropical storms approach the area, only far offshore, although there were a few species displaced in the wake of Hurricane *Ian*, which fell apart after crossing Florida and the Carolinas at the turn of October.

This fall was rather exciting, with a long parade of remarkable sightings. Among the very first of the rarities reported was **Black-headed Gull,** which may seem an unlikely way to start the season, but an individual spent half a year on Jamaica Bay's East Pond, starting in June. The bird was a staple on the pond throughout the shorebirding season and eventually was joined by a second individual on 6 October. A more mysterious continuing bird was the state first **Mottled Duck** in Amityville, which was found in April 2022 and reappeared on the same pond after a five month absence. Its original discovery was within the spring overshoot period, and despite extensive courting of local Mallards, it wasn't clear if it bred locally or continued north. So far it has not been seen in the middle of summer or winter, so maybe it is using this area as a staging ground during migration.

A few rarities were encountered that were unusual for fall, but more expected in spring and summer. Exceptional species under this umbrella included a **Black-necked Stilt** seen briefly at Jamaica Bay and a **Mississippi Kite** over Prospect Park, both on 17 September. A **White-faced Storm-Petrel** encountered on a fishing trip was always noteworthy but especially for September, although pelagic effort in this month is probably much less than in August, when the species is primarily encountered.

In terms of semi-regular, irruptive, flocking species, there were some to note from both ends of the period. **White Ibis** showed well in the Region, with no fewer than four immatures at three sites. Some of these were continuing from the summer, which saw the largest dispersal event of this species in years. Now that this species breeds in at least one large colony in New Jersey, we can expect these sightings to fade from the headlines, but they are still exciting today. Much later in the season, a variety of finches was documented, with the diversity of flight years but without the volume. In addition to Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills, which are almost always encountered to some degree in autumn, there was a small number of Evening Grosbeaks and one single White-winged Crossbill reported. Sifting through goose flocks continues to reward, with a **Pink-footed Goose** visiting Northport near the end of the period. This species continues to be reliably joining the migrant Canada Geese in our Region. Lastly, after having no groups bigger than two dozen last fall, Bonaparte's Gull made a return to the Region, with a flock of 860 noted off of Fire Island in November.

There was no significant tropical storm-related birding in the Region, although a seawatch from Montauk in the wake of Hurricane *Ian* did produce **Leach's Storm-Petrel** and **Pomarine Jaeger**, both pretty exceptional from land.

Hawk watches in our area showed a general decline in raptors. The Fire Island Hawk Watch noted a decline (as compared to the ten-year average) for six regular species: Northern Harrier, the two common *Accipiter* hawks, and all three regular falcons. The Sharp-shinned Hawk number was 52% below the average, although it was almost twice as high as last year. The only raptor showing in greater numbers was Osprey, at 30% over the average. Although Fire Island had no Broad-winged Hawk, as it is east of their regular route, many were seen over the city, including a wonderful 3,256 over Central Park on 23 September.

There was no shortage of rarities across the Region. Two **Golden Eagles** were noted, including one bird that was seen in Suffolk and then Brooklyn a few hours later. A **Sandhill Crane** passed over Staten Island in late October. Many of the potential western passerine vagrants appeared in our area, possibly more motivated to move by western wildfires. **Townsend's Solitaire** was again recorded in the Oak Beach residential area, where one was seen in winter 2008. Although **Western Tanager** didn't return to Carl Schurz Park, three were encountered more "in the wild" this period. **Cave Swallow** was also recorded in three places, just as flyby individuals. Brooklyn has done really well with **Townsend's Warbler** in the last few years, and one spent an extended period in a small urban oasis. As if one western *Setophaga* warbler isn't sufficient, there was also a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Oceanside, which might have been the first recorded in Nassau in 61 years. Last in the "rare but expected" department is **Northern Wheatear,** which was formerly more regular on the barrier islands of Nassau and Suffolk. This season's Jones Beach individual was the first in the county since almost thirty years (not to say that thirty years is a long time!).

Folks who left out hummingbird feeders were rewarded with a total of four *Selasphorus* in the Region, all in Suffolk. One was a **Rufous Hummingbird**, two were not quite identified to species, and the last was a **Calliope Hummingbird,** which cooperated for birders for two weeks in November. A **White-winged Dove** was documented at a Bedford-Stuyvesant feeder, but it was only seen on one occasion. And not quite a feeder bird, but after its original sighting at Camp Hero, Suffolk's first **Crested Caracara** spent some time on the fully private Gardiner's Island. Not everyone can open their doors to the community for a backyard rarity, but we are grateful to the ones who do.

Vagrant flycatchers are on a different level, mostly because they are hard to predict and often leave the scene before they can be appreciated. Any season with a *Tyrannus* that isn't Eastern or Western Kingbird is noteworthy, and this one had two species. A **Gray Kingbird** appeared in Staten Island, again, but was only seen by one observer. The following month, Queens was graced by its first **Tropical Kingbird** (and New York's third), just a few short years after New York state recorded its very first. It is remarkable that four kingbird species for the season was overshadowed by a different flycatcher. Thanks to sharp eyes, New

York's very first **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was documented at the lovely Wave Hill in the Bronx on 9 October, and with some effort, the bird was seen on and off the remainder of the day. This species has occurred a few times in eastern Canada and the Maritimes, but an October record from Cape May is the only other sighting from the northeast United States.

It's hard to beat a state first flycatcher, and maybe this next species doesn't, but it could easily be argued to be the bird of the season. The *American Princess* crew had a September pelagic planned that was delayed twice due to weather, and it finally went out the night of 16 October. The next morning the boat encountered a surprising number of **Black-capped Petrels,** and to the shock of all onboard, a fresh **Bermuda Petrel**. This species is famous for being Bermuda's last extant endemic bird, and for having been declared extinct in 1620 due to overhunting. In 1906, the first clues that the birds had survived on tiny islets in Bermuda's harbors surfaced and expeditions to rediscover it began. On one such expedition in 1935, a freshly dead juvenile was recovered after striking a lighthouse. It was sent to the American Museum of Natural History bird curator Robert Cushman Murphy, who has a Suffolk County park (and a different *Pterodroma* petrel) named after him. Sixteen years later, he and his wife Grace Murphy were among the first group of people to see them alive. Another of their group, a young Bermudan named David Wingate, went on to lead the conservation effort that brought them back from the brink. There are over 100 pairs today. The first record for Massachusetts waters was September 2019, and then New Jersey in August 2022. Although this was the first seen in New York waters, tracked individuals have occurred, and inform us of the incredible distances that they cover all over the North Atlantic. Still, given the enormity of their known foraging space, the total time pelagic trips spend in deep water, and the species population, it is a remarkably unlikely record.

330 species were reported in the Region this season, 27 more than last autumn.

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Shane Blodgett, on the morning of 16 September, after a battle with cancer. Sean Sime and Doug Gochfeld posted a fitting tribute to him on the NYS listserv, excerpted here.

> Shane Blodgett passed away due to lung cancer yesterday morning in the company of family in Brooklyn.
>
> While he enjoyed birding throughout New York State and beyond, and at one point held the state big year record, Shane was especially fond of his local Kings County patches, and spent countless hours doggedly scouring the Brooklyn waterfront in the most inhospitable conditions. While some are drawn to birding to commune with nature, Shane would often be found birding on the side of the Belt Parkway, on dilapidated piers, parking garages and litter strewn parking lots, all in pursuit of interesting birds. His track record of finding Common and Short-billed Gulls over the years has been both astounding and confounding to those

who scour coastal New York year after year without finding even one, and it's safe to say that he singlehandedly changed our understanding of the status and distribution of these two species in the region. Many people on this listserv have been the beneficiaries of Shane's rarity finding prowess as well his generosity and knowledge in the field.

Shane was also a talented musician, and a regular in the NYC Bluegrass scene, regularly playing Sunday jams at Sunny's in Red Hook, which he referred to as his church. Watching him perform posed strong evidence that birding was potentially Shane's second favorite past time. Consistent in both pursuits was Shane's sense of community and kindness. He will be deeply missed.

There will be others, but there will never be another.

FIRE ISLAND HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture				0
Turkey Vulture				0
Osprey	9/8	165	9/13	607
Golden Eagle				0
No. Harrier	9/8	24	9/29	147
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/8	31	10/27	103
Cooper's Hawk	9/8	7	10/27	35
No. Goshawk				0
Bald Eagle	9/20	4	10/28	14
Red-shouldered Hawk				0
Broad-winged Hawk				0
Red-tailed Hawk	10/18	4	10/27	5
Rough-legged Hawk				0
Am. Kestrel	9/9	164	9/29	559
Merlin	9/8	131	9/23	1042
Peregrine Falcon	9/18	14	10/27	124
Unidentified				3
Total inc unidentified				**2639**

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPt – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **dep** – depart; **FI** – Fire Island, SUFF; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GovI** – Governors I, NEWY; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **OP** – Orient Pt CP, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PtL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RanI** – Randall's I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **WPP** – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 FT 27 Oct (S. Walter), overhead migrating with Canadas; Northport, SUFF 22 Nov thru end of period (mob).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Northport, SUFF 27 Nov thru end of period (S. Clarke, mob).
Cackling Goose: many singles in all counties except NEWY and RICH.
Tundra Swan: imm, JBSP 21 Nov (R. Maharaj, PJL).
MOTTLED DUCK: Ketcham's Creek, Amityville, SUFF 18 Oct – 16 Nov (EMu, mob), presumably same ind found by Emu last spring.
Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 12 Nov thru end of period (mob); Mill Pd, Sayville, SUFF 17 Nov thru end of period (mob); Mill Pd Oyster Bay, NASS 27 Nov thru end of period (mob).
Canvasback: singles 8 Nov, only reports from traditional sites at Flushing, QUEE, and Eastport, Centerport, and North Sea, SUFF.
Redhead: max 5 Avon L, Amityville, SUFF 25 Nov (mob), continued decline, down from fall 2018 R10 max of 65 there. Small flocks elsewhere in RICH, QUEE, SUFF.
King Eider: none,

Harlequin Duck: arr PtL 5 Nov (mob); only other 1 f at BPt, 27 Nov (R. Ellard).

Northern Bobwhite: several reports in SUFF and NASS from known reintroductions.

Wild Turkey: Port Washington, NASS 10 Sep (BFo), unusual outside of RICH, BRON, and SUFF.
Ring-necked Pheasant: individuals from RICH, KING, QUEE, and SUFF only.

Red-necked Grebe: PlumbB 24-25 Oct ("Jeff G", mob); WPP 18 Nov (ACi); GKP 23 Nov (SSM); PBP 23 Nov (P. Horan).
EARED GREBE (R10): JBWR 11-14 Sep (DGo, SSi, mob).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Bedford-Stuyvesant, KING 22 Nov (R. Colluci), coming to feeder, ph.

Common Nighthawk: max 311 Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, SUFF 10 Sep (PDom, *et al.*), season total of 1,625, low.

Chimney Swift: max 2901 Upper W Side, NEWY12 Oct (B. Cacace), roost.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Eastport yard, SUFF 6-23 Nov (D. Massey, mob).
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Rocky Pt yard, SUFF 23-28 Nov (mob).
***Selasphorus* sp.**: Deer Park yard, SUFF 8 Nov (P. Kumar); Babylon yard, SUFF 21 Nov (SFe, KFe, mob), presumed same sp. also seen briefly 15 Nov.

Sora: dep PP 4 Nov (F. Wickman, mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): WPP 27 Oct (M. Shanley).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: JBSP 17 Sep (M. Mut), rare in fall.
American Avocet: good year, Cold Spring Habor/Lloyd Neck, SUFF 1-6 Sep (E. West, mob), JBWR 3 Sep – 23 Oct (mob); OMNSA 7 Sep (mob); Glenwood Landing, NASS 10 Sep (S. Perrault, MNo), unusual loc; Wertheim NWR, SUFF 17 Sep ("Brian M").

American Golden-Plover: after four years of no larger flocks in the SUFF sod: 17 Riverhead, SUFF 5 Sep (AnW); max 44 PBP (M. Benoit), flyover flock after storm; singles in all counties.
Golden-Plover sp: Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 18 Sep (BBom, TS), flyover Pacific candidate heard, poor ph.

Upland Sandpiper: Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 1 Sep (TS), flyover; Eastport, SUFF 1 Sep (mob), cont from August; Sag Harbor, SUFF (H. McGuinness), flyover; Cutchogue, SUFF 6-7 Sep (P. Polshek, mob); East Hampton, SUFF 17 Sep (B. Rattray, mob).
Marbled Godwit: max 12 FI Old In, 11 Oct (eBirders "Stollery & Flood").
Red Knot: max 97 Oak Beach, SUFF 31 Oct (MMcB).
Baird's Sandpiper: singles/pairs KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: RanI 21 Sep (J. Suzuki, mob), singles in all other counties except BRON.
Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 1-5 Sep (mob), continuing from Aug; River Rd marshes, RICH 3-5 Sep (ACi, mob); Amityville Ck, SUFF 9 Sep (MMcB).
Red-necked Phalarope: none.
Red Phalarope: MP 3 Oct (MMcB), remnants of Hurricane *Ian*.

Pomarine Jaeger: FI 10 Oct (R. Downer); RMSP 13 Oct (SSM, PJL).

Dovekie: OP 27 Nov (L. Betti, PDom, ph), deceased).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Little Neck/ Eastchester Bay NASS/QUEE/BRON 7-8 Sep (MMcB, mob), and again 4 Oct (MMcB, MBK), unusual loc.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 860 RMSP 25 Nov (KFe, SFe), up from max 23 last fall.
Black-headed Gull: start of period thru 6 Nov JBWR (mob), summer ind joined by second 6-29 Oct; RanI 19-23 Nov (D. Aronov, mob); Setuaket, SUFF 27 Nov thru end of period (mob), poss returning ind.
Black Tern: dep Springs, SUFF 2 Oct (AnW).
Royal Tern: dep Mecox In, SUFF 26 Nov (MMcB).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: pelagic coordinates (39.5581,-72.3987) 4 Sep (S. Weiss).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: MP 3 Oct, MMcB, while seawatching as

remants of Hurricane *Ian* passed; very rare from land.

Norther Fulmar: none.
BERMUDA PETREL: pelagic coordinates (39.2084,-72.0040), 17 Oct (J. Denesevich, mob), *intro.*
BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: max 18, pelagic 17 Oct (mob).
Great Shearwater: Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 8 Sep (TS, ph), sitting on water, very rare for location.
Audubon's Shearwater: dep, pelagic coordinates (39.182257, -72.018969) SUFF 15 Nov (mob), late.

BROWN BOOBY: GovI 7 Sep (DGo); Block I Sound, SUFF 15 Sep (D. Woolston); Mariner's Harbor, RICH 30 Oct - 20 Nov (mob); MP 1 Nov (BBol).

Brown Pelican: several, dep FT, QUEE 14 Nov (mob).

Cattle Egret: PBP 19 Oct (M. Benoit); GovI 9 Nov (DGo).

WHITE IBIS: all imms, W Meadow Wetlands Res, Stony Brook SUFF 1 Sep (mob) cont from Aug; River Rd marshes, RICH 11 Sep (ACi); Cedar B and Captree I, SUFF 21 & 30 Sep (MMcB, "Stollery & Flood").

Black Vulture: many BRON, NEWY, RICH, otherwise mostly near traditional overwintering group in Riverhead, SUFF, and a new group in Bellerose, QUEE.

Osprey: season total 607 FIHW (mob), *intro.*

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): singles, Lindenhurst, SUFF (S. and A. Macchiarola) and GwC (DGo, SSi, JMal), presumably same bird; Woodlawn Cem BRON 28 Nov (RAr).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: season total 216 FIHW (mob), *intro.*
Northern Goshawk: none reported.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: PP 17 Sep (C. Winstanley).
Broad-winged Hawk: max 3256 CP 23 Sep (J. Suzuki).

Snowy Owl: none reported.
Long-eared Owl: none reported.
Short-eared Owl: arr Green Pt marsh, SUFF 11 Oct (JGl), unusual loc.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): several locations in RICH and BRON, also Sands Pt Pres, NASS 11 Oct (mob); FP 19-22 Nov (mob), probably cont from earlier in the year.

CRESTED CARACARA: MP 2 Sep (E. Markee-Ratner, E. Ratner) and Gardiner's I sev dates 7 Sep – 8 Oct (AFa, MScb), surely same bird, which was seen again at latter loc after end of period.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: GwC 24 Nov (eBirder "terry VP"), ph.
SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: Wave Hill, BRON 8-9 Oct (GW, mob), first state record.
TROPICAL KINGBIRD: BPt 28 Oct (DGo, mob).
Western Kingbird: River Rd marshes, RICH 11 Sep (ACi); RMSP 16 Sep (MMcB, PJL) and 29 Sep (MMcB).
GRAY KINGBIRD: MF 22 Sep (M. Shikhman).
***Tyrannus* sp.**: PBP 25 Sep (DCh, N. Schleissman), probable Western Kingbird.

CAVE SWALLOW: Coney I, KING 8 Nov (RyM); Cupsogue CP, SUFF 8 Nov (MMcB); FT 18 Nov (mob).

SEDGE WREN (R10): Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 15-16 Oct (TS, mob).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Oak B, SUFF 29 Oct (AGi, mob).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: JBSP 21 Sep (S. Janazzo, mob).

Evening Grosbeak: few, singles/pairs in RICH, KING, NASS, and SUFF.
Red Crossbill: max 14 JBSP 21 Nov (P. Palmieri), few others in KING, QUEE, NASS, and SUFF.
White-winged Crossbill: Rocky Pt State Pine Barrens Pres, SUFF 8 Sep (J. Cuomo), unusual date.
Pine Siskin: few, max 29 RMSP 2 Nov (MMcB).

Lapland Longspur: few, max 1.

Lark Sparrow: at least one report from each county.
Clay-colored Sparrow: many, all counties.

YELOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10): HSP 1-2 Oct (JGl, mob); Riverbank SP, NEWY 8 Nov (A. Kramer, V. Vila, DAr).

Prothonotary Warbler: Salt Marsh Nature Center, KING 8 Oct (E. Rudden), late.

Connecticut Warbler: many, about 20 reports in all counties.
Yellow-throated Warbler: ad Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 8 Sep (A. Cooper, S. Scheibel, mob), known breeding loc.
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: OMNSA 15-16 Nov (MFa, mob).
TOWNSEND's WARBLER: Ft Greene P, KING 16-26 Nov (DGo, mob).

Summer Tanager: GwC 8 Oct (mob); RMSP 8 Oct (KFe); Georgica Cove Hollow, SUFF 26 Nov (MMcB).
WESTERN TANAGER: RMSP 9 Oct (JGl, MAc, mob); GwC 16 Nov (M. Lichtenstein); FT 27 Nov (mob).
Dickcissel: reports from all counties.

EXOTICS

Northern Red Bishop: FBF 23 Sep – 24 Nov (MEp, mob).
Yellow-crowned Bishop: Shirley Chisolm SP, KING 8 Oct (SSi).
European Goldfinch: away from traditional PP area: Bethpage SP, NASS 6 Sep – 11 Oct (O. Alui); Ferry Pt P, BRON 25 Oct- 10 Nov (P. Horan, mob).

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

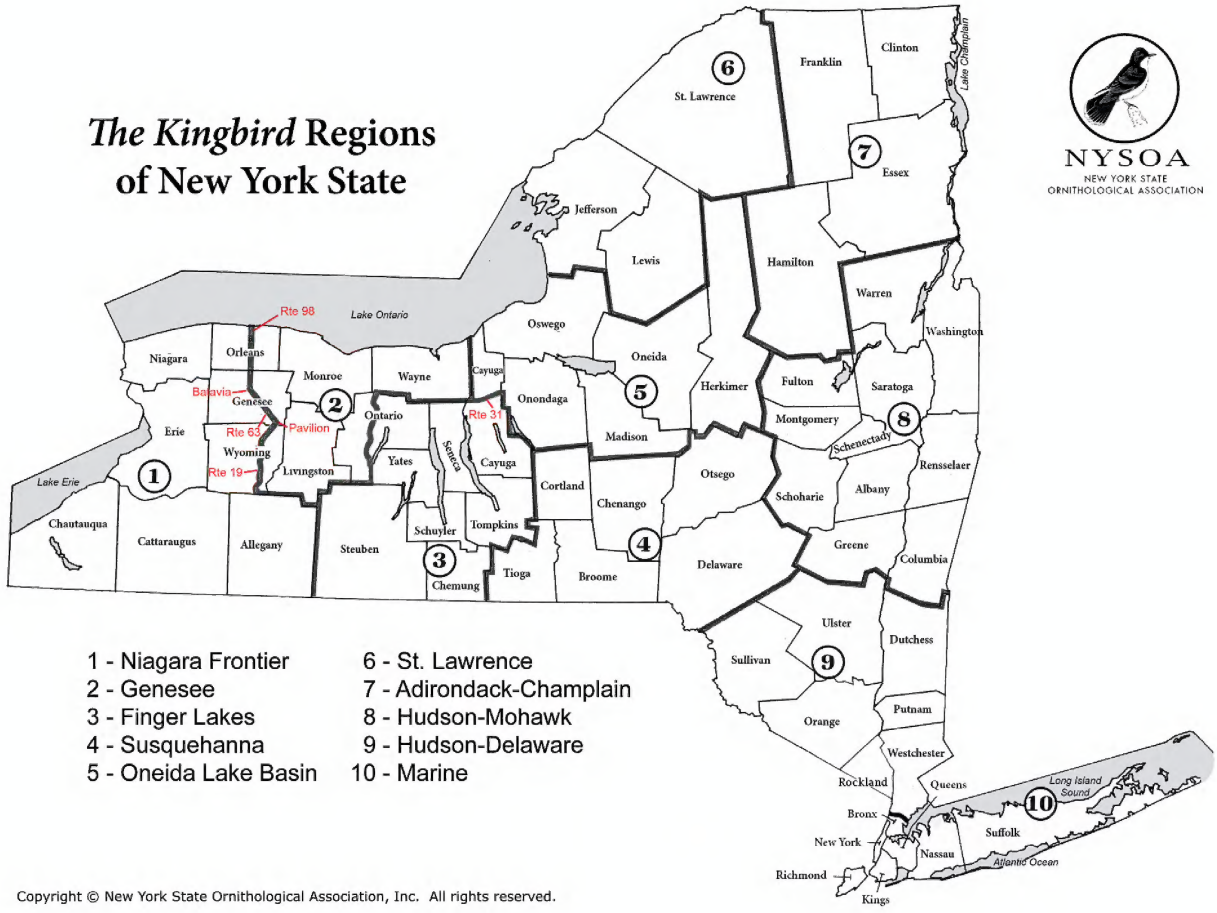
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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